

Statement on vaccination against SARS CoV2 (COVID-19)

The Department of Immunology, St. James's Hospital welcomes the roll-out of the vaccination program against SARS CoV2 (COVID-19).

The Department of Immunology does not have access to COVID-19 vaccines and is not directly involved in the roll out of vaccination to healthcare workers (HCW) or the public. Your GP (or in the case of HCW, your Occupational Health department) will be best placed to advise you as to when vaccination will be available.

We advise all to review the HSE guidance on COVID-19 vaccines

<https://www2.hse.ie/screening-and-vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine/>

Detailed information is also available in the NIAC Immunisation Guidelines, Chapter 5a, that may be useful to healthcare professionals and is available here

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/covid19.pdf>

Side effects to vaccines are thankfully rare. We will continue to review relevant reports and modify our advice in line with national guidance.

Patients with allergies to food or medicines

If you have a serious allergy or anaphylaxis (serious allergic reaction requiring medical treatment) to food or medicine, you should tell your vaccine provider about this before getting the vaccine. Your vaccine provider will decide whether you might benefit from additional monitoring after your vaccine.

Patients with allergies to vaccine constituents or polyethylene glycol/macrogol

If you have a history of anaphylaxis (serious allergic reaction requiring medical treatment) to a previous dose of the vaccine or a history of reactions to any of the constituents of the SARS CoV2 vaccine (including polyethylene glycol / macrogol) you should tell your vaccine provider before getting the vaccine. This may impact on your eligibility for some but not all of the SARS CoV2 vaccines.

If you have received the vaccine and wish to report an adverse effect – this should be done through your vaccine provider or occupational health department and not directly to the Immunology Department.