

Virus. Vaccine. Vision.

A Covid-19 information series by laya healthcare, looking after you always.

Ireland's Covid-19 Vaccine Roll-Out: guidance for employees

2021 is set to be the year of the Covid-19 vaccine. Knowledge is power when it comes to Covid-19, and this fact sheet aims to answer some common questions that employees have around vaccines and the role and expectations of their employer when it comes to vaccination.

Q. Can my employer provide the Covid-19 vaccine?

No. The Covid-19 vaccination is only available through the HSE to eligible groups with the Irish government covering the cost of vaccinations initially for those who wish to receive them.

Q. Can my employer mandate me to get the Covid-19 vaccine?

No, your right to choose is protected by legislation. However, employers will encourage their employees to avail of the vaccine as part of their overall efforts to protect them from Covid-19, along with other Health and Safety measures including provision of PPE, hygiene and handwashing, social distancing and facilitating remote working in line with public health guidance.

Remember, your employer's role is to help support you by communicating the facts to keep you safe and help you make informed decisions.

Q. When will I be vaccinated?

Ireland's vaccination programme is already underway, with the most vulnerable in society being vaccinated first. It's important to get updated information from trusted sources. The HSE published a provisional order in which residents in Ireland will be vaccinated- see [here](#).

Q. Where can I get the vaccine?

Depending on your situation, you may be offered a vaccination in a dedicated vaccination clinic, a GP surgery or in your local pharmacy.

Q. Will the vaccine give me lifetime immunity from Covid-19?

That's unlikely, according to Professor John Gallagher, Founder and Chief Medical Officer of Cognate Health and clinical advisor to laya healthcare who advises that *"it's expected that people will require one booster and probably more in the following years depending on what happens with regards to Covid-19 variants"*.

Q. Do I still need a vaccine if I've experienced Covid-19?

Yes, to give you greater immunity. Allow a period of one month from the onset of symptoms of Covid-19 to getting the vaccine.

Q. Are there side-effects to the Covid-19 vaccines?

As with all medicines, vaccines can cause side-effects although not everyone will experience them. The HSE have clearly outlined these [here](#).

Q. I am nervous about getting the vaccine, can my employer help?

Being cautious and nervous is understandable. While recent research* by laya healthcare shows that 4 in 5 (79%) employees intend to get the vaccine, anxiety levels around Covid-19 are increasing. Laya healthcare members aged 16+ have 24/7 phone access to counsellors 365 days a year. This is a **confidential service, made available at no extra cost** to help support your mental wellbeing at this challenging time.

survey of 1,003 employees by Spark research on behalf of laya healthcare, 15-29 January 2021

Quick links to trusted info:

- [HSE](#)
- [24/7 Mental Wellbeing Support Programme](#)

To find out how laya healthcare is supporting you during Covid-19 go to

- <https://www.layahealthcare.ie/coronavirus/>

