



# COVID-19 school vaccination



Ask our team  
of medical  
experts

## Will the vaccine protect me?

The vaccine will reduce the chance of you suffering from COVID-19. It may take a couple weeks for your body to build up some protection from the vaccine but when it does, your body will know how to fight the virus.

Young people who have had one dose of vaccine are half as likely to catch COVID-19 compared to someone who has not been vaccinated. Some people may still get COVID-19 despite having a vaccine, but symptoms should be less severe. Further information is available on [gov.je/symptoms](https://gov.je/symptoms).

The vaccines do not contain organisms that grow in the body and have been deemed safe for all young people aged 12 and over, as well as a small group of 5-11 year olds who are at an increased risk of being very unwell if they catch COVID-19.

## Are you at risk from COVID-19 infection?

For most young people, COVID-19 feels like a mild illness. While you're less likely to need hospital treatment if you catch COVID-19, it can still make you feel unwell. For some people, symptoms may last longer than the usual 2 to 3 weeks.

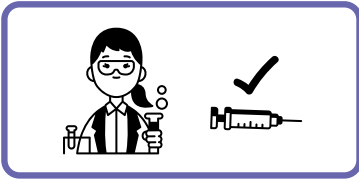
As positive cases are increasing amongst young Islanders, the vaccine will reduce your chance of catching COVID-19 and developing illness. This all helps you to enjoy the festive season, stay in school, and keep your friends and family safe too.

Currently the vaccine licensed for children and young people is the Pfizer vaccine. This is what you will be offered.

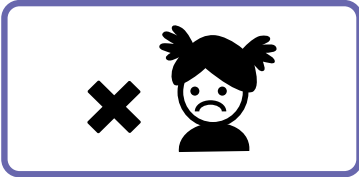
## About the vaccine



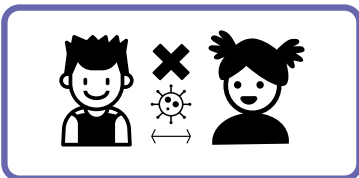
Young people aged 12 to 15 years old are currently being offered two doses of the vaccine. Young people aged 16 and 17 year olds are being offered two primary doses of the vaccine and a booster dose.



The vaccine has been tested to make sure it is safe and effective, and the needle is very small. So it will just feel like a little scratch.



Having the vaccine makes you less likely to get very ill from COVID-19.



It will help to stop you from catching and passing on the virus.

Getting the vaccine is likely to reduce the chances of further disruption in schools, keeping you in school with your friends, and protecting your physical and mental health.

## What about giving consent?

You should share information about the vaccine with your parents and discuss it together.

Should you decide to get vaccinated, you will need to hand in the consent form to your school. Nurses will visit your school to administer the vaccine on an allocated day.

If you would like to get the vaccine but don't want it at school, you can get it at Fort Regent. A parent or guardian will need to go with you to sign a consent form when you're there. This parental consent process is the same as any other childhood vaccine.

We have created a specialist area where young people will receive their vaccine, with a friendly and experienced team.

## Common side effects

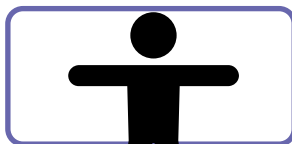
Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short term, and not everyone gets them.

You can rest and take paracetamol (follow the dose advice in the packaging) to help make you feel better. Although feeling feverish is not uncommon for 2 to 3 days,

a high temperature is unusual and may indicate you have COVID-19 or another infection. Side effects following vaccination normally last only a few days.

If you are unsure about your side effects, contact your GP or book an online PCR test.

Very common side effects include:



Your arm feeling heavy or sore where you had the injection



Feeling tired



Having a headache



Feeling achy like you've got the flu

**Keep your card  
safe with details of  
your vaccination.**



### **Less common side effects**

You should seek medical advice urgently if you experience:

- chest pain
- shortness of breath
- feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding heart

### **What to do next?**

After having the vaccine, you should continue to:

- wear a face mask where recommended
- meet outdoors or let fresh air inside if you're indoors
- take daily lateral flow tests before going to school
- wash your hands regularly

### **If you are not well when your appointment is due**

You should not attend a vaccine appointment if you are self-isolating or waiting for a COVID-19 test. Students aged 12 to 17 who have had a positive PCR test result must ensure that 8 weeks or more have passed since the date of the test. Students aged 18 must ensure 4 weeks have passed since the date of the test. If the required number of weeks have not passed, the vaccine will not be administered, following advice from the JCVI.

### **Further Information**

You can report suspected side effects on the Yellow Card website or by downloading the Yellow Card app: [coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/productinformation](https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/productinformation)

Further information is available from: [gov.je/vax](https://gov.je/vax)