

Announcement by the Ministry of Health on the decisions of the Council of Ministers regarding COVID-19 vaccine boosters

As part of the efforts of the Ministry of Health to strengthen the immunity of groups of the population who are more vulnerable to severe disease, the Council of Ministers, during its session on 22 March, 2022, has decided:

a) the administration of a booster/3rd dose to individuals aged 12 years and over with mRNA (Pfizer) vaccine, provided that the period of six (6) months after the administration of the 2nd dose has elapsed.

b) the administration of a booster/4th dose of a vaccine:

- to individuals **over 70 years old, provided that the period of five (5) months has elapsed since receiving the booster/3rd dose.**
- to individuals, **regardless of age**, who are residents and working staff at Senior People's Homes and other closed structures, health professionals, and **immunosuppressed individuals***, provided that the period of five (5) months has elapsed since taking the booster/3rd dose:

***Immunosuppressed individuals:**

- *Under active treatment for solid tumours and haematological malignancies*
- *With a history of solid organ transplantation receiving immunosuppressive therapy*
- *With a history of transplantation of primary haematopoietic organs receiving immunosuppressive therapy*
- *With hereditary immunodeficiency*
- *With HIV Infection/AIDS*
- *Under immunosuppressive therapy including biological agents*
- *Regarding cortisone intake, this concerns patients who have received or are receiving a total dose >10 mg prednisone/day (=8 mg of methylprednisolone) for one (1) month in the last six months.*
- *With renal insufficiency undergoing haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.*

The administration of a booster (3rd or 4th) dose of a vaccine is optional.

The start date of the vaccinations and the procedure to be followed will be announced in due time.

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