

Professor Breda Smyth
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19 December 2022

cc Dr Colette Bonner DCMO
Ms Richael Duffy Principal Officer
Ms Pauline Brady CMO Office

Re: Inclusion of additional cohorts of the population in the booster COVID-19 vaccine programme

Dear Professor Smyth,

I refer to your email of 25 November 2022 asking if additional cohorts of the population could be included in the booster COVID-19 vaccine programme.

On 22 July 2022, NIAC issued [recommendations for additional COVID-19 vaccination](#) to include those aged:

- 50 years and older
- 12-49 years who
 - have underlying medical conditions associated with a higher risk of severe COVID-19
 - are residents of long term care facilities
 - are pregnant
 - are healthcare workers

At NIAC's COVID-19 working group meeting today a permissive approach was agreed upon for healthy people aged 18-49 years i.e., they may choose to receive an additional COVID-19 booster vaccine if there is at least a six month interval since their previous vaccine dose or SARS-CoV-2 infection. This may apply particularly to those who wish to reduce their risk of transmission e.g., carers or those who live with someone with immunocompromise. In exceptional circumstances an interval of three months may be used (e.g., in a person scheduled to commence immunosuppressing therapy).

Yours sincerely,

Karina Butler
Imc 03054

Professor Karina Butler
Chair/Interim Clinical Lead NIAC