

**From the Chief Medical Officer
Prof Sir Michael McBride**



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

HSS(MD)80/2021

FOR ACTION

Chief Executives HSC Trusts (*for onward cascade to
Medical Directors*)

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/Health and Social
Care Board.

GP Medical Advisers, Health & Social Care Board
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (*for onward
distribution to practice staff*).

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Our Ref: HSS(MD)80/2021

Date: 8 December 2021

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST

Dear Colleague

VACCINATION ISSUES –COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

1. Thank you for your ongoing work on the COVID-19 vaccination programme which has become quite complicated with the inclusion of 3rd doses, booster doses and different vaccine dose amounts depending on the type of dose being administered. This letter seeks to clarify some points and ensure the correct vaccine amount is given.
2. In my letter of 7 October, HSS(MD)71/2021 <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-hss-md-71-2021.pdf> I advised that Moderna vaccine will come in packs of 100 doses, which will allow for approximately 170 half doses (10 vials, each containing 17 half doses of 0.25ML per vial) to be administered. However based on actual experience garnered during the deployment of the booster programme to date this planning assumption has now been revised. Moderna packs of 100 doses are expected to allow for 200 half doses (10 vials, each containing 20 half doses of 0.25ML per vial).
3. With regards to the vaccination of immunosuppressed individuals. There has been some feedback from community pharmacy providers on the quality of the information contained in the letter from a patient's GP or Trust clinician as to whether their patient requires a 3rd dose or booster dose.
4. As there is a difference in dose when administering the Moderna vaccine as a third primary dose (0.5ml) or a fourth 'booster' dose (0.25ml), it is important that the referring clinician is clear as to what dose of the Moderna vaccine is required

to mitigate risk of error. I would therefore be grateful if clinicians could clearly document what dose is required when generating the letter that their patients will receive when directing them to community pharmacy to administer the vaccine.

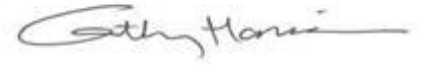
Yours sincerely



Professor Sir Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



Linda Kelly
Acting Chief Nursing Officer



Mrs Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

