



15th December 2021

Mr Stephen Donnelly TD
Minister for Health
Department of Health
Block 1, Miesian Plaza
50-58 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2

Via email to Private Secretary to the Minister for Health

Dear Minister

I have this evening received correspondence from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) advising that the 15-minute observation period following administration of booster vaccine doses may be waived (see attached). This recommendation is subject to two exceptions namely, individuals receiving a primary COVID-19 vaccine course for whom a 15-minute observation period is advised, and those with a history of anaphylaxis from any cause, who should continue to be observed for 30 minutes following receipt of their booster dose.

The observation period of 15 minutes is a recommendation in EMA product information for COVID-19 vaccines and is based on a precautionary approach given that true anaphylaxis would typically present immediately. The licensing documentation does however state that the use of vaccines should be in accordance with national recommendations.

In light of the threat posed by the Omicron variant, and in the interests of ensuring a safe and efficient roll-out of the booster programme, I am endorsing the NIAC advice.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tony Holohan
Chief Medical Officer