



Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

# Trini-Vaccine



COVID-19 Vaccine Report  
College Health  
Spring Summer 2021

## Foreword

It has been a privilege for all of us at College Health to have delivered an on-campus SARS-CoV2 vaccination to those students and staff identified by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC ) as being very high risk (group 4a) or high risk (group 7).

The task of identifying those patients in groups 4a and 7 had initially been allocated by the HSE to the hospitals, and their outpatient departments, but, it rapidly became clear that there was significant complexity in both identifying patients with the relevant conditions and also identifying that the qualifying conditions were of a clinical severity that placed the patients in group 4 or group 7.

In practice, this meant assessing each application based on specific clinical criteria and allocating each patient to one of the risk groups. Unfortunately, we had to disappoint others by advising that they would need to await vaccination at the time of their age cohort.

The entire team at College Health, Administrative and Clinical, focused on delivering over 1500 vaccinations. We were supported by the College community throughout, particularly with access to a large marquee in New Square, which was an appropriately sized venue to allow vaccination and observation of significant numbers of students and staff in a safe environment.

The vaccination delivery was the third arm to our COVID-19 Strategy, which had commenced with a joint HSE and Trinity College Health collaboration in setting up an on-campus COVID-19 testing centre which would be staffed by College Health but function as part of the National COVID-19 testing service.

Additionally, we participated in the Trini-Screen testing project, led by Professor Orla Shiels which offered antigen testing to students in residence as well as staff in essential occupations across College.

I would like to thank each and every member of the College Health Team for their determination to not alone continue to provide all of the day-to-day essential clinical services, but also to take on these additional Health Promotion and Public Health challenges, with a view to providing as much protection as possible to our most vulnerable students and staff throughout the Pandemic.

Dr. David McGrath,

Director of College Health Service



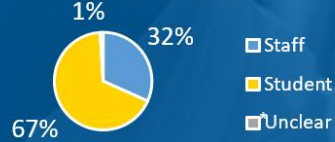
# Summary



## Trini-Vaccine – On-Campus COVID-19 Vaccinations

In April 2021, College Health invited students and staff aged <60 who fulfilled criteria 4a or 7 of the National COVID-19 vaccine allocation plan to register for vaccines. >1000 students and staff applied for our first clinic, for which we were initially allocated 50 vaccines for Group 4. Further vaccines were allocated to College Health by the HSE and were administered during nine on-campus clinics.

Who registered for the vaccine? n=1,227

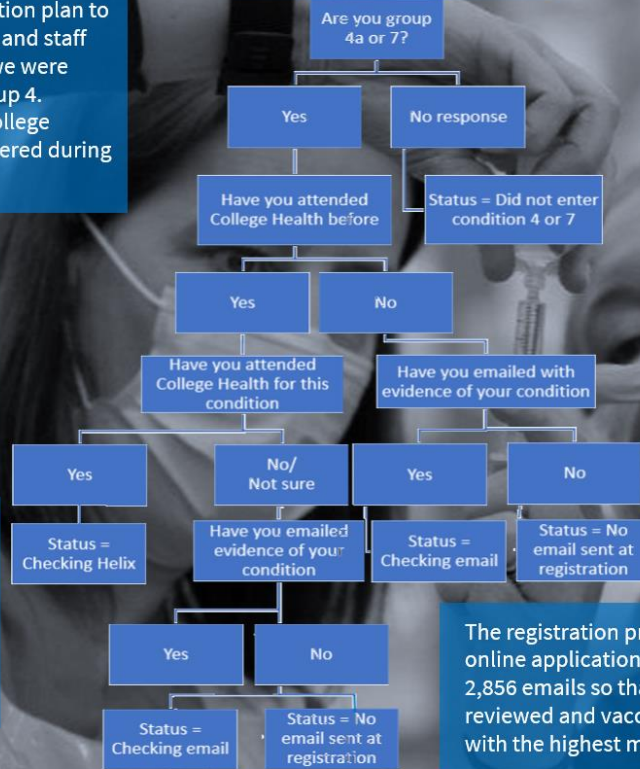


\* Registrant exited survey before entering

*“Ensuring vaccines were administered to those who needed them most was our absolute priority. Demand far outstripped supply”*

Dr. David McGrath, Medical Director, College Health

### The Registration Process

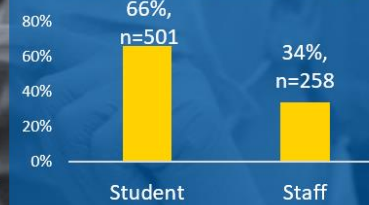


The registration process involved categorising >1,227 online applications and reading and/or responding to 2,856 emails so that >1,000 medical records could be reviewed and vaccines could be allocated to those with the highest medical need in groups 4a and 7.

### How many were approved for vaccine? n=1,227



### Who received vaccines? n=761



*“Getting this vaccine is the best news. I haven’t left my house in a year. Literally, I have been in my house since COVID-19 started over a year ago.”*

Patient, April 2021

### Are you group 4a or 7? n=761



## Introduction

In April 2019, College Health received notification that it would receive COVID-19 vaccines from the Health Service Executive to be administered to students or staff under the age of 60 and who fulfilled the criteria for Group 4a or Group 7 in the National COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Plan. Eligibility criteria are detailed below:

### **Cohort 4 Age 18-59**

- Patients with Diabetes with HbA1c > 58mmol in last 12 months
- Patients with Obesity – BMI > 40
- Patients with Chronic Respiratory Disease – on home oxygen or hospitalized in past 12 months
- Mental Health Services to identify and vaccinate patients with severe mental health illness.

### **Cohort 7 Aged 18-59**

- Diabetes – all other patients with diabetes Type 1 and 2
- Patients with Obesity – BMI > 35
- Patients with Chronic Respiratory Disease includes severe asthma
- Patients with moderately severe COPD
- Patients with Chronic Heart (and vascular) Disease – patients on medication/treatment for heart failure or on hypertensive medication, diagnosis of peripheral vascular disease or history of vascular surgery
- Immunocompromised Patients.
- Patients with Cancers who are not already vaccinated
- Patients with Chronic Kidney / Liver / Neurological Disease who are not already vaccinated.

Prioritisation of patients based on condition, rather than age, required complex review and processing of patient records by medical and administrative staff. This document describes the steps undertaken to ensure that the vaccines were administered to those who most needed them.

## Methodology

### Registration

On the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 the email in Appendix A was sent to [18,407 students and 3,502](#) staff. It requested that those who thought they were eligible for the vaccine complete the registration survey in Appendix B. The registration link was closed on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The process of allocating vaccines as described below was iterative.

### Managing Email

There were 2,856 emails received. 917 received responses as most of the emails were regarding eligibility criteria. Once they received a reply, many respondents emailed on several occasions to send evidence of their underlying condition and confirm if they had been selected for Cohort 4a or 7. These emails were counted as one correspondence.

### Data Cleaning

Duplicate registrations via the online registration link were removed.

Patients who emailed College Health's dedicated COVID-19 vaccine email account without registering via the online link were sent the online registration link and asked to do so.

Patients who for medical or personal reasons asked to register by email only were facilitated by the College Health administration and medical teams who registered them for vaccines manually.

### Group Categorisation

Patients were categorised by group according to four key questions:

- Are you group 4a or 7?
- Have you attended College Health before?
- Have you attended College Health for this condition before?
- Have you emailed your records to College Health?

See figure 1 for how categorisation was achieved.



Picture 1. College Health admin team at the first vaccine clinic.

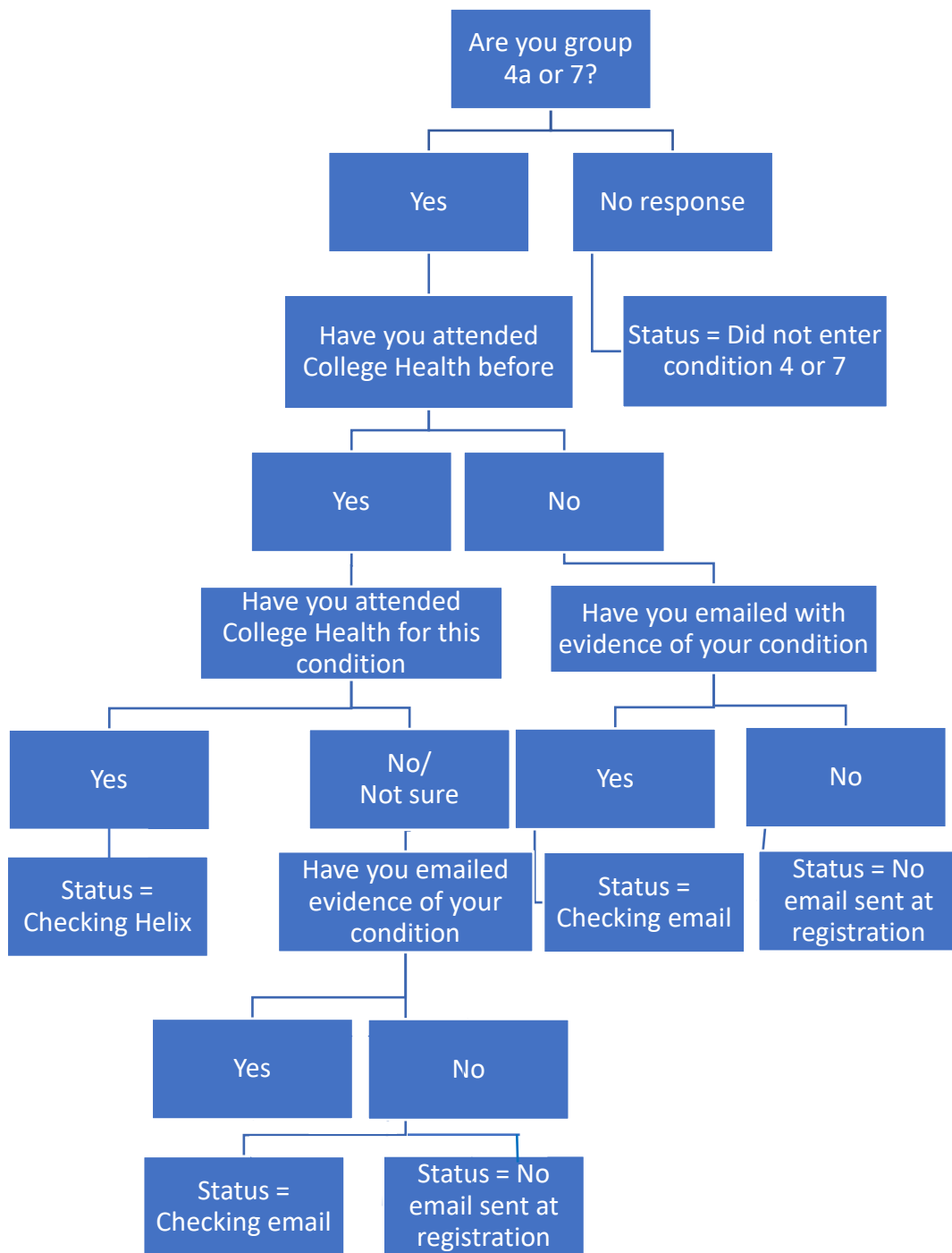


Figure 1: Categorising registrants according to four questions

## Individual Medical Record Verification

After the group categorisation process, all registrants were assigned one of four categories and their registration was processed as detailed:

1. Did not enter condition 4 or 7

**Action:** Emailed to notify that if they felt they were eligible for the vaccine they should complete their registration.

2. Checking Helix (College Health records)

**Action:** College health records reviewed by medical team to confirm eligibility for vaccine and prioritise patients with most need.

3. No email sent at registration

**Action:** Emailed to request medical records.

4. Checking email

**Action:** Administration team confirmed emailed had been received. Medical records received reviewed by medical team to confirm eligibility for vaccine.



Picture 2. College Health medical team at the first vaccine clinic.

On conclusion of the individual medical record verification, all records had the following statuses:

1. Approved for vaccine
2. Not approved for vaccine
3. Did not complete registration

## Ensuring limited vaccines allocated to highest priority patients

The medical notes held on each applicant at College Health were reviewed, in addition to assessing the medical evidence that was supplied by the patients in filling out the application for vaccination.

This involved detailed medical records assessment as well as responding to individual emails looking for clarification or evidence of the severity of the qualifying conditions.



Picture 3. College Health doctors preparing vaccines at the first vaccine clinic on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## Invitation to Attend Clinic

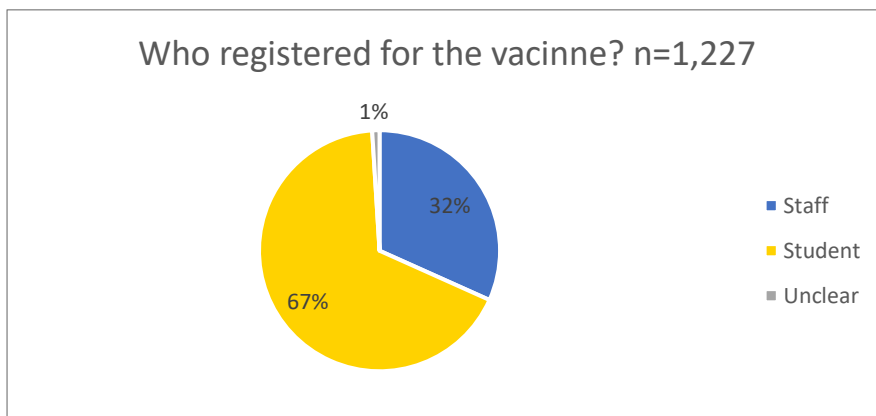
Once approved for the vaccine. Patients were invited by email to attend a vaccine clinic.

## Vaccines administered

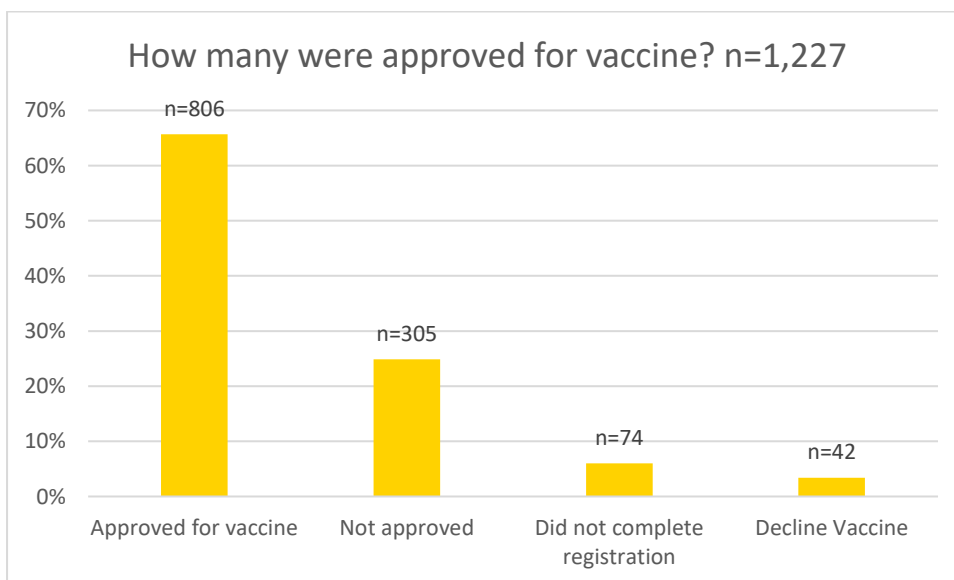
Vaccines were administered at specialised clinics on the following dates in 2021: 27<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> July.

## Results

1,347 people registered for the vaccine on survey monkey, a response rate of 6%. 2,856 emails were received. After the manual process of removing duplicate records and adding details from emails, 1,227 records remained.

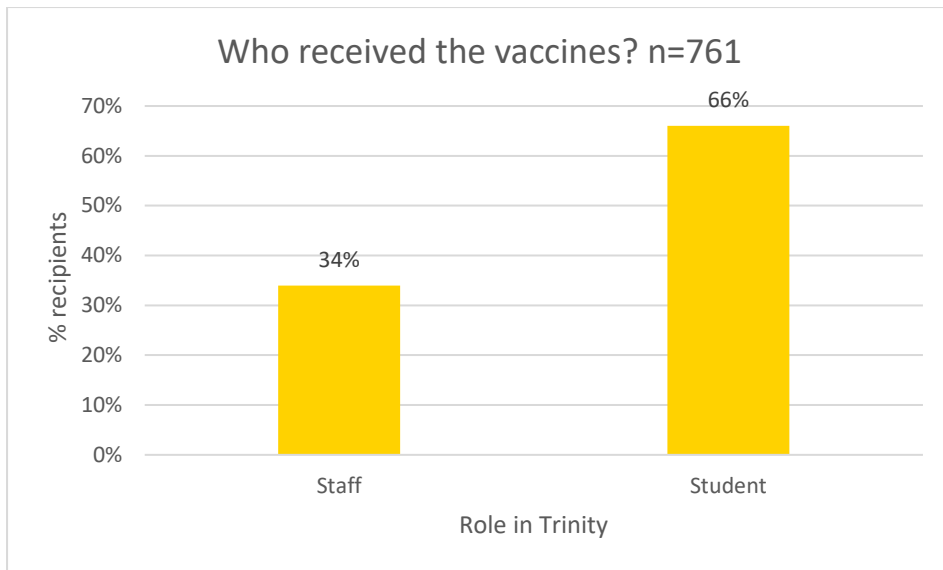


Two thirds were students and one third were staff.

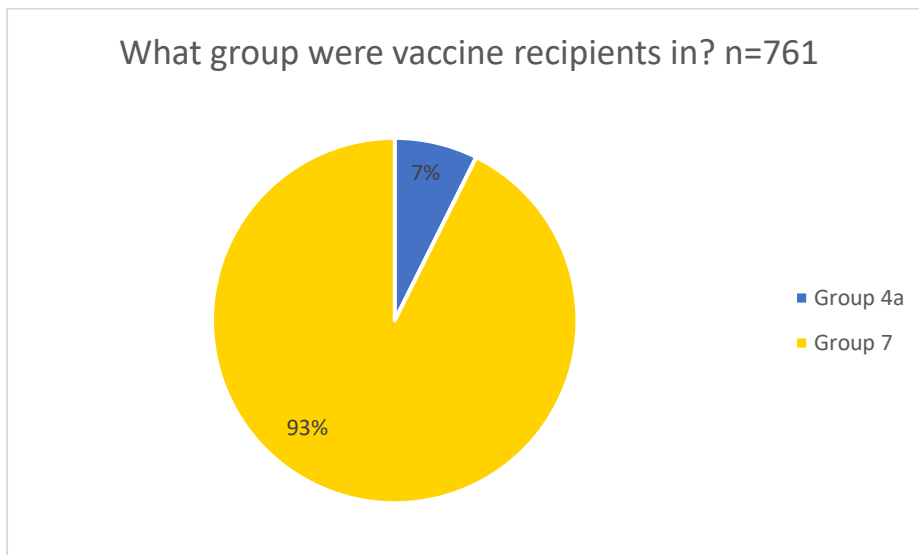


806 were approved for vaccine with 305 not meeting the registration criteria, 74 not completing the registration and 42 declining the vaccine when offered it.





Two thirds of the recipients were students, one third were staff.



93% (n=704) the recipients were Group 7.

## Appendix A – Registration Email

**From:** David Mc Grath <DMCGRAT@tcd.ie>

**Sent:** Monday 19 April 2021 14:29

**Subject:** Covid 19 Vaccination on-Campus by the College Health Service

Dear Students and Staff,

The College Health Service has completed the administration of Covid 19 vaccines to our older patients.

Our over 60s are currently registering for vaccination.

We are now delighted to offer on-campus vaccination to the next groups in the Vaccine Priority Allocation list.

The HSE have now asked us to identify students or staff who are under the age of 60 and who fulfil the criteria for Group 4a or Group 7 in the Covid 19 Vaccine Allocation Plan.

I would ask you to examine the Clinical criteria below to assess whether or not you have a medical condition that places you in Category 4a or Category 7

### **Cohort 4 Age 18-59**

Patients with Diabetes with HbA1c>58mmol in last 12 months

Patients with Obesity – BMI >40

Patients with Chronic Respiratory Disease – on home oxygen or hospitalized in past 12 months

Mental Health Services to identify and vaccinate patients with severe mental health illness.

### **Cohort 7 Aged 18-59**

Diabetes – all other patients with diabetes Type 1 and 2

Patients with Obesity – BMI>35

Patients with Chronic Respiratory Disease includes severe asthma

Patients with moderately severe COPD

Patients with Chronic Heart (and vascular) Disease – patients on medication/treatment for heart failure or on hypertensive medication, diagnosis of peripheral vascular disease or history of vascular surgery

Immunocompromised Patients.

Patients with Cancers who are not already vaccinated

Patients with Chronic Kidney / Liver / Neurological Disease who are not already vaccinated.

Should you have a medical condition that means that you can be allocated to one of these groups we would like you to complete this form.

We expect to hear from the HSE this week regarding our delivery of Pfizer Vaccine for these groups and will contact you with an appointment.

Please do not telephone the College Health Service for clarification.

Should you require clarification, please email our dedicated Covid 19 vaccine email address.

[CollegeHealthCOVIDVaccine@tcd.ie](mailto:CollegeHealthCOVIDVaccine@tcd.ie).

We are looking forward to commencing on-campus vaccination shortly and would ask you to continue to check your emails as, although you may not fulfil the criteria for groups 4a and 7, we will continue to work our way down the Vaccine Priority Groups until everyone is offered a Vaccine.

Best wishes,

David

Dr David McGrath and the College Health Team,

Medical Director  
College Health Service  
Trinity College  
Dublin

IMC 13262

## Appendix B – Online Vaccine Registration

### College Health COVID-19 Registration

#### About you

\* 1. What is your name?

\* 2. Are you a Trinity

- Undergraduate
- Postgraduate
- Staff
- Other

3. What is your Trinity student/staff ID?

\* 4. What is your phone number (please include country code)

5. What is your email address (it must be a Trinity email address)

\* 6. What is your

Date of birth

Date

\* 7. Do you have a PPS number?

- Yes
- No

### College Health COVID-19 Registration

#### What is your PPS Number

\* 8. What is your PPS number

#### College Health COVID-19 Registration

##### Alternative to PPS Number

\* 9. As you indicated you do not have a PPS number, can you provide one of the following?

- Medical card number
- GP visit card number
- EHC number
- UK National Health Service number
- UK driving licence number
- UK passport number
- National insurance number
- None of the above

#### College Health COVID-19 Registration

##### Alternative to PPS number

\* 10. Please enter the number of the ID you indicated in the question previous to this that you can provide

#### College Health COVID-19 Registration

##### No PPS, no other ID number

\* 11. What course are you studying in Trinity?

#### College Health COVID-19 Registration

##### Why do you qualify for the vaccine?

\* 12. Under which group do you qualify for a vaccine?

- Group 4a - Diabetes, Obesity, Chronic respiratory disease, Cancer, Chronic kidney disease, Chronic neurological disease or condition, Immunocompromise due to disease or treatment, Inherited metabolic diseases, Intellectual disability. [See full details here](#)
- Group 7 - Cancer, Chronic heart (and vascular) disease, Chronic kidney disease, Chronic liver disease, Chronic neurological disease or condition, Chronic respiratory disease, Diabetes, Immunocompromise, Inherited metabolic diseases, Intellectual disability, obesity, sickle cell disease. [See full details here](#)

### College Health COVID-19 Registration

#### Group 4a

\* 13. Which of the following conditions do you have?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic neurological disease or condition    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obesity                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Immunocompromise due to disease or treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic respiratory disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Inherited metabolic diseases                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual disability                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic kidney disease      |   |

### College Health COVID-19 Registration

#### Cohort 7

\* 14. Which of the following conditions do you have?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic heart (and vascular) disease      | <input type="checkbox"/> Immunocompromise             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic kidney disease                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Inherited metabolic diseases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic liver disease                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual disability      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic neurological disease or condition | <input type="checkbox"/> Obesity                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic respiratory disease               |   |

### College Health COVID-19 Registration

#### College Health records

\* 15. Have you previously attended College Health?

- Yes
- No

### College Health COVID-19 Registration

#### Attended College Health for qualifying condition

\* 16. Have you previously attended College Health for the qualifying condition?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not sure

### College Health COVID-19 Registration

#### Has not or is not sure attended College Health

\* 17. Have you emailed evidence of your condition to COLLEGEHEALTHCOVIDVACCINE@TCD.IE?

Please note, to obtain a vaccine from College Health, evidence of your condition must be emailed to us before an appointment for you can be booked.

- Yes  
 No

### College Health COVID-19 Registration

#### Thank you

Thank you for completing your registration. For comments/queries, please phone 01 896 1591.

The College Health Team