



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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23rd. November 2020

Deputy David Cullinane
TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare Street
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PQ35470/20: To ask the Minister for Health the number of influenza vaccines by type ordered in 2019; the number administered in 2019; the stock unused in 2019; the estimates for 2020 in this regard, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The above PQ has been forwarded to my Department for direct response to you on same.

1.2m doses of Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIV) was the only type of seasonal influenza vaccine purchased for 2019/2020 flu season for the HSE influenza vaccine programme.

It is unknown exactly how many doses were administered as there was no onus on GPs to record vaccination to private patients (i.e. those in a recommended risk group, but without a GP visit or medical card).

This type of vaccine was available free to the same cohort as this season (with the exception that last season also included those aged 2 years old to 12 years old who were medically at risk). Some of those who were entitled to free vaccine, were not entitled to free administration of vaccine, ie those over 65yrs or medically at risk but without doctor only card or medical card. These people were not captured in the uptake figures as the uptake figures are based on returns to the PCRS.

Approximately 10% of doses were unused in 2019/20 season.

In the 2020-21 influenza vaccine season 1.35 million doses were procured. This season it is anticipated that there will be no wastage. Uptake figures will be more accurate as every dose must be claimed through the PCERS as all those on the HSE targeted list are entitled to free vaccine and free administration fee.

Anyone else who is not in a group eligible for HSE influenza vaccine may purchase this privately, but the HSE has no information on the amount of private vaccine available.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelleher', with a horizontal line underneath.

DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FPPHM, FPPHMI
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