

Pádraig O'Sullivan TD  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2

20th April 2021

**PQ 18579/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the guidelines that have been provided to community pharmacies allowing them to prepare for their part in the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pádraig O'Sullivan**

Deputy O'Sullivan,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question which was passed to the HSE for response.

Community Pharmacists, who have already made a very significant positive contribution to efforts to manage this public health crisis since the outbreak of Covid-19 in the spring of 2020, will play a key role in the delivery of the Vaccination Programme in accordance with the agreed National Vaccination schedule.

The HSE has been working with the pharmacy sector in recent months, including representatives from Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) to enable community pharmacists to join the programme as vaccinators. An agreed Operating Guidance has been issued together with the commencement of an expression of interest process which has issued to the pharmacy sector to determine those that would be in a position to join the programme.

In addition a technology solution has been developed to enable pharmacists to work with the programme. This is due for trial with 15 pharmacies towards the end of April.

I trust the above is of assistance.

**Yours sincerely,**



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**Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Primary Care Strategy and Planning**

