



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
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5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Mr. Éamon Ó Cuív TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: PQ 19589/21.**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of housebound persons over 70 years of age who have not yet received the Covid-19 vaccination; the reason for the slow roll-out of vaccinations to this highly vulnerable group; the steps he plans taking to expedite this roll-out; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE Home Vaccination Programme for people aged over 70 commenced in mid-March 2021. As of 1st May 2021, two-thousand six hundred and sixty-seven (2,667) vaccines have been administered and there are 477 patients that had not received their first vaccination. It is projected that these patients will receive their first vaccination within the next seven days.

Under this Programme, registered patients are receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. This vaccine is unlike conventional vaccines and requires strict transport and usage deadlines for its safe and effective rollout. For example, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine only has a transport window of twelve hours and once the vaccine vial is prepared for patient usage (with the addition of saline) the administration window is six hours for that vial and it should be noted that the vaccinator must remain with the patient for fifteen minutes following administration of the vaccine. Therefore, remaining patient's locations are being matched to both the transport and administrations deadline time frames in order to maximise the number of dosages from a vial (there are six dosages within one vial).

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline McDonagh - Senior Executive Officer.

