

Bernard J. Durkan (T.D.)  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2

5<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**PQ 22347/21 – To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which general practitioners, pharmacists and other authorised personnel are progressing the Covid-19 inoculation programme; if all of the methods currently in place are equally successful in dealing with the vaccination programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Bernard J. Durkan**

Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above PQ which you submitted and apologise for the delay in responding.

The HSE is rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine programme in line with the Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups published by government. Last week the vaccination programme opened to those aged 16 to 18, and the HSE is continuing to provide well in excess of 300,000 doses a week. In July over a million vaccines were administered and the six millionth dose will be delivered today, 5 August. Currently 88% of the population aged 16 and over are now partially protected and 74% of the population aged 16 and over are fully vaccinated.

General Practitioners (GPs), 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, have played and will continue to play a key role in the delivery of the vaccination programme in accordance with the agreed national vaccination schedule. In particular, GPs and Practice Nurses had a key role in delivering the COVID-19 vaccination programme to persons aged 70 years and over as well as high-risk patients in the medical priority groups.

Community Pharmacy is now also a part of the National Covid 19 Vaccination Programme having commenced on the 14th June. Since the 14th June, c1,000 Pharmacies have commence administering Janssen to complete any remaining 50 and over age cohorts who for whatever reason had not yet presented themselves for vaccination.

A subset of c350 Pharmacies are supporting the Vaccination Centres with as they work through the age cohorts. Community pharmacy will bring the strength of geographical spread to support local communities that are some distance from a Vaccination Centre.

I hope the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,  
Susan Kenny

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General Manager  
Community Strategy and Planning



Seirbhís Sláinte  
Níos Fearr  
á Forbairt

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