



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Deputy Bríd Smith**

Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

23/07/2021

**PQ 22509-21 - Deputy Bríd Smith: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the concerns of some high risk and vulnerable persons in relation to taking a vaccine (details supplied); if his attention has been drawn to comments by some experts on the lower efficacy and poorer performance of the vaccine against new variants; if he will facilitate older age cohorts for whom the vaccine is being reserved the right and option to request an alternative vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Smith,

Thank you for your representation. Sincere apologies for the delay in responding to this representation, which is due to the cyber-attack on the HSE.

The HSE is rolling out the vaccine programme in line with the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC).

The NIAC are continuously reviewing emerging evidence in line with the new vaccines.

The NIAC have recommended Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) for those aged 50 years and older, and mRNA vaccines are recommended for those aged under 50 years of age.

All individuals should continue to practice recommended public health measures for prevention and control of Covid 19 infection and transmission after Covid 19 vaccination.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours faithfully

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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the CCO