

3rd Dec. 2021

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: jennifer.whitmore@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 59152/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the strategy he is undertaking to ensure that migrant communities messaging in relation to Covid-19 vaccination is done in a culturally sensitive manner; the way he is encouraging communities to take up the vaccine; when he plans to do same; the specific funding that is being applied to ensure this is the case; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

Please note that as of 25th November Ireland is now top in the EU for full vaccinations of over 18 year olds, at 93.3%.

In order to address the low uptake in certain areas and groups the HSE have convened a dedicated Working Group to coordinate efforts to increase the level of vaccinations there. In regards to the migrant populations there are several targeted efforts underway to improve the uptake of the COVID-19 Vaccination, which include:

- Through the Department of Justice we are working with 12 NGOs outside our community network to target provision of information.
- The embassy network has been provided with information and asked to use all channels.
- The new immigration website www.irishimmigration.ie will carry a banner promoting vaccination
- There is continued focus on multilingual communications through digital radio, direct communications, social media and press
- National and regional radio advertising week commencing 1st November, including translated versions on digital audio platforms.
- Translated general vaccine video content being updated this week in Polish, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Russian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Turkish, Latvian, Croatian, Georgian, and Albanian.
- Targeted initiatives for vulnerable occupational/ethnic groups continuing in association with HSE Social Inclusion.

We are continually striving to reach all residents in Ireland to communicate the benefits of COVID-19 vaccinations and encourage uptake.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Damien McCallion
National Director
National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme