

20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2021

Deputy Peadar Tóibín,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: [peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie](mailto:peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ Number: 59158/21**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health if a timeline for Covid-19 booster jabs for each age group has been approved; and if so, the timeline for booster jabs.**

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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

The policy regarding the roll out of the additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine is determined by NIAC and the Department of Health.

Below are the cohorts which NIAC have recommended, to date, to receive the COVID-19 booster dose and their associated cohort start dates.

1. Residents of long-term care facilities aged 65 and older - Early October
2. Those aged 80 years and older - Early October
3. Healthcare Workers - Early November
4. Those aged 70-79 years - Early November
5. Those aged 60-69 years - Early November
6. Residents of long-term care facilities under 65 years - Early November
7. Those aged 16-59 years with underlying conditions - Late November
8. Those aged 50-59 years - Early December

On 26<sup>th</sup> November NIAC advised that in addition to prior recommendations in the next order of priority, a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine is recommended for:

- all pregnant women aged 16 years and older
- all those aged 40 - 49 years who received any COVID-19 vaccine including COVID-19 vaccine Janssen
- those aged 16 - 39 years, who received an mRNA vaccine in descending order by age cohort; 30 - 39 years, 20 - 29 years and 16 -19 years
- Those aged 16 - 29 years who received COVID-19 vaccine Janssen can be offered a booster vaccine in parallel with those aged 30 - 39 years.

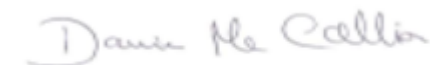
In light of the Omicron variant, NIAC recommends reducing the interval between the primary course and the booster dose to facilitate earlier protection. NIAC now recommends that people should be administered an mRNA booster vaccine after a minimum interval of three months in the order of priority as previously recommended. This means the time to complete an age cohort is dependent on the person's original vaccine completion date.

We are sequencing the rollout of the booster programme and prioritising cohorts as set out by NIAC. Therefore, whilst eligibility plays an important part in scheduling booster appointments, there may be a waiting period to ensure we broadly adhere to the NIAC priority sequence. We also have to factor in eligibility so we are commencing some cohorts in parallel to maximise capacity. Planning to operationalise these recommendations is underway.

Please note that all vaccination channels will be open to individuals from all cohorts. Capacity is being created across all channels to offer an optimum number of appointments to complete each group as quickly as possible.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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