



16th Dec. 2021

Deputy Alan Farrell,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 59959/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health when pharmacists will be included in the roll-out of the Covid-19 booster vaccination programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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 16th December, over 1.3 million booster doses have been administered to eligible cohorts and over 100,000 3rd doses have been administered to immunocompromised individuals.

In the week commencing 15th November, we brought the pharmacy sector onboard to bring additional capacity to the booster programme. Pharmacies are a valuable channel in the Vaccination Programme and can now vaccinate across all eligible cohorts. We continue to roll out vaccines through the pharmacies with over 125,000 booster doses administered as of 16th December.

There are currently c.550 pharmacies that are participating in the programme across the country, with the intention to increase to 700 this week and upwards of 1,000 pharmacies in the New Year. Pharmacies are obliged like all other vaccination channels to work through the priority groups to ensure those most at risk are vaccinated first. The list of participating pharmacies can be found on the HSE website and have included the link below for information:

<https://www2.hse.ie/Apps/Services/PharmaciesServiceList.aspx>

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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