

20th Dec. 2021

Deputy Claire Kerrane,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: claire.kerrane@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 60501/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health if vaccination centres and other settings in which the booster vaccines are being rolled out including primary care centres are running at full capacity; if sufficient vaccinators are in place across these settings; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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 19th December, over 1.5m booster doses have been administered to eligible cohorts and almost 100k 3rd doses have been administered to immunocompromised individuals. Ireland is 4th in the EU for booster vaccinations for the eligible population.

In order to give people maximum opportunity to get a booster and to use all capacity in the programme we are using Vaccination Centres, GPs and Pharmacies as vaccination channels. 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.

Vaccination Centres

As of 19th December over 569k booster doses have been administered in Vaccinations Centres.

The HSE is currently operating 34 Vaccination Centres and these are working extended hours at present as part of our extended hours. We currently have around 1,700 WTE in our vaccination

In addition four new centres have opened in the last month to support the accelerated campaign.

General Practice

General Practice has been a key component in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Approximately 2.74 million vaccines (across primary and additional courses) have been administered by GPs, which includes over 29k third doses for the immunocompromised and over 660k booster doses.

Over 1,300 practices have received booster deliveries/opted into the booster programme. For practices not participating they have an option to refer patients to a Vaccination Centre.

Pharmacy

Pharmacy is also playing an important part in the programme and providing additional choice and convenience to people in terms of vaccination location. As of 19th December, we have administered nearly 464,000 vaccines through pharmacies, which includes over 155k booster doses. Approximately 700 Pharmacies are currently participating in the programme with the intention to increase this 1,000 in the New Year.

There is sufficient capacity to support the programme at present. There are more likely to be challenges in increasing uptake as we move through the ages and also address the impact of the recent increased incidence of the disease.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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