

22nd Dec. 2021

Deputy Michael Ring,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: michael.ring@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 62436/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the reason more pharmacies are not administering the booster vaccination in view of the excellent work that pharmacists have carried out throughout the pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ring,

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 HSE Covid vaccination programme has to date administered over 1.7 million additional doses, including over 1.6m booster and ca.102k 3rd primary doses for those with immunocompromised.

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 184,000 booster doses administered via this channel.

There are currently c.700 pharmacies that are participating in the programme across the country, with the intention to increase to 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