



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

2nd March 2021

Mr. John McGuinness TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 10416/21

To ask the Minister for Health when nurses attached to the Irish Cancer Society in Carlow and Kilkenny will be vaccinated; and the reason for the delay.

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

Now that there is a safe and effective vaccine available the HSE is aware that most people are keen to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. Currently the key constraint is that there is only a limited amount of vaccines available so it is not possible to reach everyone as quickly as we would like. Given that limitation the Government published a national list of Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups on December 8th 2020. This list is available at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/39038-provisional-vaccine-allocation-groups/>

The HSE is offering the vaccine in accordance with the prioritisation list set out by the government.

The first groups to be offered the vaccine are the groups most at risk of COVID-19. We are currently offering it to:

- people aged 65 years and older who live in long-term care facilities (commencing in HIQA registered sites)
- frontline healthcare workers

The vaccination of frontline healthcare staff is ongoing and in accordance with the specific national guidance issued in relation to the sequencing of vaccinations of frontline healthcare workers - the HSE are working on prioritising staff within their remit i.e. public, private and voluntary.

I can confirm that South East Community Healthcare (SECH) Primary Care Services scheduled vaccination appointments for Nurses from the Irish Cancer Society originally on the 22nd February 2021 but which were rescheduled to 25th February 2021 as no vaccines arrived in St. Luke's

Hospital on the 22nd February 2021. If there are any outstanding Irish Cancer Society nurses in the South East, they should link with Primary Care Services.

The HSE appreciates that everyone is looking forward to the day when people in their area receive vaccines. Please be assured that as vaccine stocks arrive, we will work as quickly as we can to get these vaccines to where they are needed most.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jeanne Hendrick
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare