



16th March, 2021

Verona Murphy T.D.
Dáil Eireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 10908/21

PQ 10908/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health the number of vaccinators currently assigned to the Covid-19 mass vaccination centres nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

As part of the National roll out of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, there is at least one vaccination clinic in every county to support the vaccination of the general population in a safe and efficient manner. Each vaccination clinic varies in size and been initially selected based on population density, ease of access, public transport, parking and on-site facilities available.

Each large scale Vaccination Clinic will be staffed by a multi-disciplinary team with different staff members having key roles and responsibilities to support the overall vaccination process. In addition to vaccinators, the team will include pharmacy, administration, ICT and support staff to support the delivery of a high-quality efficient and safe vaccination service. Each vaccination centre will operate to the highest quality standards in alignment with standardised operating guidelines.

The national recruitment campaign for the COVID-19 new vaccinator role is currently underway and we are making every effort not to put at risk existing health service provision, specifically our response to COVID-19 surge, our ability to maintain our service continuity programme, the delivery of the commitments in our National Service Plan and Winter Plan and specifically not target existing healthcare staff in public or private healthcare. This national campaign, which is run by Cpl Healthcare, primarily focuses on the supply of services to vaccination clinics. The recruitment link is as follows: <https://hbsrecruitmentservices.ie/vaccinators/>.

We have had a great response to our campaign with over 3,000 applications received and 2,366 applications deemed eligible thus far. Vaccinator candidates are currently being screened to ensure that they have the required discipline specific training to administer vaccinations. It is anticipated that candidates will complete the recruitment process and contracts will begin to issue this week. Individuals offered vaccination roles will increase over the coming weeks as candidates complete the clearance and required vaccinator training process.



Some of these clinics are currently being used to vaccinate Health Care Workers and are being supported by existing peer vaccinators from our hospitals and community health organisations as well as by some GPs. Vaccination Clinics will be operational on a rolling basis from late March/early April onwards depending on vaccine supply and the suitability of these locations for the vaccination of specific cohorts of the population (as per the National Vaccination Strategy) supported by new vaccinators recruited through the national recruitment campaign.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances McNamara', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Frances McNamara
Assistant National Director,
Office of the Chief Operations Officer