



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer

Dr Steevens' Hospital|Steevens' Lane|Dublin 8|D08 W2A8
email: cco@hse.ie

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

Ospidéal Dr Steevens|Lána Steevens|Baile Átha Cliath 8|D08 W2A8

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Róisín Shortall TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

By Email:

Date: 19/03/2021

PQ 10931/21: To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to ensure that arrangements are in place for administration of the Covid-19 vaccine when numbers are expected to reach 1.2 million per month in April, May and June 2021; the number of staff being recruited; the date they are expected to be in their post; the number of vaccines which will be in use; and the intended daily capacity in terms of number of vaccines administered. -Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

Thank you for your representation. The HSE is responsible for the operational roll out of the vaccine programme in line with the COVID-19 Allocation Strategy was developed by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and the Department of Health, endorsed by the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET), and approved by Government on 8 December 2020.

The priority from the beginning of the vaccination programme has been to vaccinate and therefore protect the most vulnerable amongst us; those who are most likely to have a poor outcome or die if they contract the virus, which has been strongly age-related. The vaccine allocation groups were revised NIAC on the 23rd of February based on additional evidence. NIAC has proposed and the Government has accepted that people with very high risk medical conditions, aged 16 to 69 should be vaccinated next. These are very specific and detailed conditions and are available on the following link

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/39038-provisional-vaccine-allocation-groups/>.

Supply

The ability to achieve targets are reliant on vaccine supply and the expected supply for the first quarter being 1.1m. Further details are waiting on delivery forecasts from the manufacturers. The vaccination programmes objective is to use vaccines as they arrive, subject to the supplier guaranteeing the second dose. The EMA has recommended granting a conditional marketing authorisation for the single-shot COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen to prevent COVID-19 in people from 18 years of age. This is the fourth CMA application for a COVID-19 vaccine since the start of the current pandemic.

Vaccination Model

A number of different models have been used to vaccinate the initial cohorts of patients i.e. Community Vaccination Teams and General Practitioners and HSE Vaccination Centres. It is also intended that Pharmacists will play a role going forward and we are currently finalising an operating framework with that sector.

The HSE has developed a model of vaccination centres around the country of which 13 are now open for the purposes of delivering vaccinations to Health Care Workers. 13 or the 27 are now open and the others will open on a rolling basis as needed and supply dependent during March, April and May.

We are currently finalising the exact split of vaccinations between the different locations which will determine the precise staffing needed for each vaccination centre.

Recruitment

To date over 2,600 completed applications have been received through the national recruitment campaign for vaccinators. As dentists and optometrists have now been included as disciplines which can vaccinate, the closing date has been extended. Local recruitment also continues and all new vaccinators are offered discipline specific training, agreed with their regulator as well as the vaccine specific training available on line via HSELand. In addition, there are now over ten and a half thousand healthcare professionals (existing health care professionals) who have completed the vaccine specific training.

I hope this provides you with assistance,

Yours sincerely



Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO