



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

17th February 2021

Deputy Brian Stanley
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

PQ 5199/21* To ask the Minister for Health if measures will be put in place to protect taxi drivers from Covid-19 who are carrying patients and samples from hospitals and between hospitals given that they are not being provided with PPE; the position of taxi drivers who are providing patient transfers on the vaccination programme list in terms of priority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brian Stanley

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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

I am advised by the Office of the Chief Clinical Officer that guidance in this regard has been issued by the Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Team in the HSE. This guidance should be adhered to by employers of taxi drivers contracted to carry patients and samples from and between hospitals. The employer has a duty of care for each taxi driver to ensure that they have the appropriate PPE to carry out their duties safely.

In relation to the prioritisation for vaccination, I can confirm that the roll out of Covid-19 vaccination is in line with the Government's Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/bf337-covid-19-vaccination-strategy-and-implementation-plan/>

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory
General Manager
Acute Operations