



Príomhoifigeach CHO Ceantar 8  
Oifig an Cheantair  
Páirc Ghnó Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia  
Sráid Hale  
Baile Átha Fhirdhia  
Contae Lú

Chief Officer CHO8 Area  
Area Office  
Ardee Business Park  
Hale Street  
Ardee  
Co Louth

PRÍOMHOIFIGEACH ECSP CEANTAR 8  
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION 8

t: 041 6871500

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8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ - 5517/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will seek and share a detailed report on the causal factors that led to the disposal of 22 vials of a vaccine in the Louth Meath midlands community health area; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Fergus O'Dowd**

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive has been 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 have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

22 vials of Covid-19 vaccine that were delivered to a nursing home in Midlands Louth Meath Community Healthcare Organisation were incorrectly stored and the appropriate cold chain was not in place. Unfortunately they could not be used and this incident was very disappointing for all concerned, residents and staff.

The breach was reported and all necessary processes were followed. A review was undertaken in line with the HSE Incident Management Framework.

The review identified the following key learning points which have been shared with public and private residential care facilities in the CHO and with Covid Vaccination leads in each CHO:

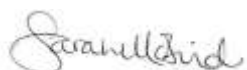
1. When vaccines are delivered and accepted into a centre, the vaccine must only be handed over to and accepted by a member of the nursing team.
2. The nurse accepting delivery of the vaccines into their facility must maintain the cold chain by ensuring that the vaccines are immediately stored in a medical grade fridge at the appropriate temperature in line with HSE Guidelines for maintenance of cold-chain in vaccine fridges and management of vaccine stock
3. The Nurse in Charge must at the earliest opportunity or at the next handover inform the nursing team the vaccines have arrived and are in safe storage and this must be relayed to the next shift of nurses coming on duty.

4. The centre needs to risk assess the medical grade fridge in advance of the vaccine delivery to ensure it has sufficient capacity to store the vaccines safely.

We are sorry that this incident took place and all eligible residents and staff have now been vaccinated

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



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Sarah McBride  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation