

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Deputy Neale Richmond TD**

Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Date: 02 February 2021

**PQ5625/21 (116) To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to ensure that Covid-19 vaccine vials are not unused or stored incorrectly and expire; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Richmond

Now that there is a safe and effective vaccine available, we are 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 vaccine 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 8<sup>th</sup>. This list is available at the following link. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/39038-provisional-vaccine-allocation-groups/>.

The education and training programmes that have been led by the National Immunisation Office (NIO) includes the handling and storage of the vaccine. Guidance documents have been issued to hospital groups and the community to this effect in relation to the Sequencing of the vaccination programme for healthcare workers provided in the link below

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/covid-19-vaccine-materials/sequencing-of-covid-19-vaccination-of-frontline-healthcare-workers>

All vaccine administration sites are required to have standby lists of frontline healthcare workers later in the sequence to ensure that staff are available at short notice in the event that frontline healthcare workers earlier in the sequence order are not able to attend or could not receive the vaccine.

The HSE is doing everything that it can to reach everyone as quickly as possible and hopes that the vaccination programme will progress swiftly in line with the Government's Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely



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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the CCO