



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Catherine Connolly

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

Date: 24/02/2021

PQ 8302/21 (189) - To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the administration of the Covid-19 vaccine to residents of the Aran Islands and other offshore islands; the provisions planned to allow island residents many of whom are elderly and vulnerable to access the vaccine without being required to take the boat to the mainland, which would involve the risk of transmission of the virus and the dangers posed by inclement winter weather; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

Thank you for your representation. The HSE is rolling out the vaccine allocation in line with the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) groupings. The vaccine programme commenced vaccination of group 3 of the allocation list on the 15th of February.

The HSE is committed to ensuring all over 70s patients in this group gain access to the vaccine as required including those living in remote locations. To this end the HSE, working with a number of state agencies including the Defence Forces arranged for vaccines distributed to Inishmore & Innis Oirr - Aran Islands off the coast of Galway and Arranmore Island off the coast of Donegal. Work is ongoing involving all relevant stakeholders to ensure the various arrangements are in place as required. Work is also ongoing to ensure that all remaining islands and remote locations are appropriately addressed and in this regard special arrangements have already been put in place to provide the vaccine to over 35 remote rural practices over the coming days.

I hope this provides you with assistance

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO