



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Richard Bruton

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

Date: 24/02/2021

PQ 8531/21 (219) - To ask the Minister for Health the way in which he plans to use community pharmacists in the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme given their experience in rapid and effective vaccination.

Dear Deputy Bruton,

Thank you for your representation. There has been an ongoing process of engagement established since the Covid-19 Pandemic commenced, involving senior HSE clinical and management staff with Community Pharmacists involving the Irish Pharmaceutical Union and Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. This has provided the basis for regular communication on the evolving situation with Community Pharmacists and through them their wider pharmacy network.

Community pharmacists will play an important role in the delivery of the vaccination programme in accordance with the agreed National Vaccination schedule. Community Pharmacy will also have a role in the vaccination programme that is extended to the general population.

From the outset, in the planning of the overall programme, it was not intended that Pharmacists would be involved in the vaccination of the initial cohorts of older persons and those with chronic conditions over 70 years of age but rather it was determined given the clinical and operational parameters involved that it was more appropriate that this more vulnerable cohort would be vaccinated through General Practice based on a number of clinical considerations.

I hope this provides you with assistance,

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO