

5th March, 2021

Ms. Sorca Clarke T.D., Dáil Eireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Oifig Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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Office of the Chief Officer, Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation, Health Service Executive, Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly \$\cup\$: 057 9359787/774

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Re: Parliamentary Question - 9417/21

To ask the Minister for Health when the contract regarding the Covid-19 vaccination centre in County Longford will be finalised. -Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you recently submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

Please be advised that Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation are still reviewing options in County Longford which are not finalised as of yet.

Vaccines are currently being administered in healthcare settings, to front-line healthcare workers, and to people aged 70 and over by their GPs across 1,300 practices. At the moment, vaccine administration is limited only by the supply of approved vaccines and that is dependent on the manufacturers meeting their supply commitments. The HSE is engaged in creating an expanded vaccination infrastructure, managing a suite of vaccine products with different handling and delivery requirements.

Using CSO Census population data, the HSE has located 37 vaccination centres, ranging in capacity, which will be used to vaccinate the wider population. A total of 7 locations have been identified for HSE Midlands Louth and Meath (CHO8). Work is being progressed in accordance with the announcement of the Department of Health on Monday, 15th of February. The centres will come on stream as needed, with AIT expected to be completed by late March, with a dedicated workforce being central to achieving full operational status. All centres will be ready in advance of the need to match vaccine supply which, based on current information, is forecast to reach a peak in Quarter 2.

More information on this process will be announced by the HSE very shortly, and we will be engaging with partner organisations, to keep them informed, and to ask for their support as relevant. Call HSE Live on: 1850 241 850 or 01 240 8787.

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,

Acting Chief Officer

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Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation