

CC/CC/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

13th January 2021

Mr Cathal Crowe TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 1029/21

*** To ask the Minister for Health the reason University Hospital Limerick was not included in the first tranche of the Covid-19 vaccination rollout given the consistently and worryingly high numbers attending the hospital. -Cathal Crowe**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

The first delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine was received by the HSE on December 26th, and starting from December 29th, the first vaccines in Ireland were given to staff and patients at four acute hospital sites – St James's Hospital, Cork University Hospital, University Hospital Galway and Beaumont Hospital.

Factors influencing the selection of these sites included the size of the initial delivery of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine; the size of the workforce and volume of clinical activity on the hospital sites in question; logistical factors including cold supply chain and the proximity to the selected sites of other large acute hospital facilities.

The first batch of vaccines was delivered to University Hospital Limerick on Monday, January 4th, 2021. This is part of a regional vaccination programme that will see the vaccine administered to all staff in UL Hospitals Group, the HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare Organisation and other healthcare settings. Vaccination at the region's main acute hospital, University Hospital Limerick (UHL), got under way on Monday, January 4th, University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UMHL) on Tuesday, January 5th and in Ennis Hospital on Wednesday, January 6th.

We are currently finalising preparations to roll out the vaccination in Croom, Nenagh and St John's Hospital. As of January 11th, a total of 2,408 healthcare workers in the region have received the first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. These staff will require a second dose within a period of three weeks.

I trust this clarifies the position. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group