



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

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15th January 2021

Deputy Matt Shanahan,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2,
D02 XR20

RE: PQ Ref 1398/21

*** To ask the Minister for Health the clinical protocols observed that required the South/Southwest hospital group to provide vaccination to frontline staff in its Cork city-based elective only hospitals some with no Covid-19 patients, while deferring vaccination to frontline staff in the second largest acute hospital in the group University Hospital Waterford in addition to acute settings in University Hospital Kerry and South Tipperary General Hospital all with Covid-19 cases; the transparent equitable analysis the hospital group will be offering in a real time and ongoing basis to demonstrate fair allocation of vaccine resources and rollout among the hospital group concerns and HSE south community sites; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Shanahan**

Dear Deputy Shanahan,

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. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The South/ South West Hospital Group (S/SWHG) in collaboration with our community colleagues in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and South East Community Healthcare are implementing the COVID- 19 vaccination programme for Healthcare workers across the entire region. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response to the vaccine programme from staff of all disciplines presenting for the vaccine and vaccine clinics have administered available supply on a continuous basis.

The S/SWHG commenced the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination in Cork University Hospital on Tuesday, 29th December 2020 after being selected by the National Immunisation Office as one of four Model 4 hospitals to administer 500 doses to staff. The Group were offered additional supplies and continued the roll out of the vaccine over the New Year weekend in Cork City.

The vaccine rollout across the 11,000 plus staff in the S/SWHG is part of a detailed plan which involves the training and coordination of specialist staff across all hospital sites. The complexity of administration, logistics and training requirements associated with this vaccine did not permit vaccination at sites beyond Cork city at short notice.

However, once sufficient vaccine was made available and following the training of staff the vaccine was rolled out to University Hospital Waterford on Tuesday, 5th January 2021.

The vaccine programme was also rolled out to University Hospital Kerry on Wednesday, 6th January 2021 and to South Tipperary General Hospital on Friday, 8th January 2021.

To date, approximately 20,000 staff of all disciplines across the region have received their first dose of the vaccine and from 19th January, the Group will begin administering the required second dose to those who were vaccinated from 29th December onwards.

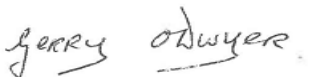
From January 11th, vaccine supply to Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) was increased significantly, however, the Group will continue to vaccinate frontline staff where possible, recognising that these staff are crucial to treating patients with COVID-19.

The operational model of the National Roll-out Plan is such that the vaccine will be administered as the supply arrives in Ireland (i.e., there will be no build-up of stock).

You will be aware of the arrival of the first doses of the Moderna vaccine in Ireland which was announced by Minister Stephen Donnelly earlier this week and the HSE expects to receive approximately 110k doses in Q1 2021. We are hopeful that this along with the Pfizer vaccine will ensure that all healthcare staff across the Group and Community will receive the vaccine over the coming weeks and months. The distribution across the Group will depend on the supply available to us at any given time.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer
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South/South West Hospital Group
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