



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
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Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniúile
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

Date: 28th January 2021

PQ 3404/21 (69) To ask the Minister for Health the reason the vaccination of all adults aged 65 and over who are residents of long-term care facilities were not vaccinated in the very first instance and as top priority as proposed in the Covid-19 vaccination programme as published; the persons or bodies consulted in relation to the change in policy; the person or body that made the decision to change the published vaccination programme; if it will be ensured that all adults over 65 years of age resident in long-term care facilities will be vaccinated against Covid-19 as a priority; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

Now that there is a safe and effective vaccine available we are aware that most people are keen to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. Currently the key constraint to the rollout of the vaccine is the limited amount of vaccine available. It is not possible to reach everyone as quickly as we would like. Given that limitation the Government published a national list of Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups on December 8th. This list is available at the following link.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/39038-provisional-vaccine-allocation-groups/>.

The HSE initially commenced with the rollout of the vaccine in the first two immediate groups. The focus in the last week has been to complete the first dose of vaccination in all long term residential facilities. The HSE has now administered the first dose of vaccine in long term residential facilities with the exception of a small number of nursing homes that have active outbreaks.

I hope that this provides you with assistance,

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO