



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
Dr Steevens' Hospital|Steevens' Lane|Dublin 8|D08 W2A8
email: cco@hse.ie

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil
Ospidéal Dr Steevens|Lána Steevens|Baile Átha Cliath 8|D08 W2A8

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

Date: 28 January 2021

PQ 3945/21 (77) To ask the Minister for Health if clarification will be provided on the definition of a direct patient contact with reference to the vaccine roll-out plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Carroll MacNeill

Thank you for your representation. 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 is the limited amount of vaccine available so 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/>.

I am taking your question to mean direct patient contact groups for healthcare workers. The term healthcare worker is a broad category. It includes people at very different levels of increased risk related to their work. In the context of the available volumes of vaccine and the practicalities of administration it is necessary to consider the sequencing of vaccination of frontline healthcare workers. The Hse developed a paper to outline an approach to be accepted by most healthcare workers which is consistent with Government policy and based on principles that are reasonable and fair see link below

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/covid-19-vaccine-materials/sequencing-of-covid-19-vaccination-of-frontline-healthcare-workers>

The HSE is doing everything that it can to reach everyone as quickly as possible in line with the Government's Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups.

I hope this answers your question,

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO