



Príomhoifigeach CHO Ceantar 8
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PRÍOMHOIFIGEACH ECSP CEANTAR 8
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION 8

24th March 2021

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ – 11249/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if concerns raised in respect of a general practitioner practice (details supplied) in County Louth that had to cancel a vaccine clinic for patients over 85 years of age due to the non-delivery of vaccines will receive a response; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

The HSE is aware, that for a small number of GP practices there have been operational issues regarding ordering and delivery schedules, particularly in rural areas where GP Practices have been unable to 'Buddy Up' with larger GP practices or participate in the large vaccination centres this week.

The HSE are working through these issues with the GP representatives and the IMO to address them. Due to the complex nature of delivering vaccines in smaller quantities to smaller practices, the HSE are in contact with individual GP practices to double check orders and support them through the process, and are facilitating vaccine deliveries to those practices. A central GP Order Support Team is assisting the GP community in placing their orders and understanding the delivery arrangements, in order to ensure the smooth rollout of the vaccine.

Approximately 1,300 GP Practices will have participated in the vaccine programme by the end of this week. The vast number of GPs have been vaccinating their patients in the 85 and over age group without any issues.

Practices scheduled for delivery this week have been contacted by the HSE and sent a confirmation email which the GP should confirm in terms of the number of vaccines required for patients aged Over 85. The supply chain continues to operate deliveries to vaccination points through our National Cold Chain Service.

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,

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation