



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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11th March 2021

Ms. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 11434/21

To ask the Minister for Health his plans in conjunction with the Minister for Transport to provide free public transport services to and from the vaccination centres announced in counties Carlow and Kilkenny; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

The HSE is committed to ensuring all 70's and over patients gain access to the Covid-19 vaccine as required. Existing "Community Call" transport arrangements will continue to ensure members of the over 70's cohort (commencing with 85 and older age group) who require support can attend their GP practice to receive the vaccine when scheduled.

There are a relatively small number of older people who, due to illness or frailty, are housebound and cannot avail of the existing 'community call' arrangements to attend the GP practice. The HSE through the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) are working with GPs and with the National Ambulance Service to ensure arrangements are put in place so that these patients receive the vaccine.

I can confirm the HSE is not providing free public transport for Covid-19 vaccinations.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jeanne Hendrick
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare