



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer  
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Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Clínicíúil  
Ospidéal Dr Steevens | Lána Steevens | Baile Átha Cliath 8 | D08 W2A8

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Deputy Réada Cronin**

Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

**PQ 12043/21-** To ask the Minister for Health when clear information on Covid-19 vaccination availability and dates including for the over 70s cohort will issue widely to general practitioners and particularly to practices in north County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cronin,

Thank you for your representation. The HSE is fully committed to ensuring all over 70's 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 the > 85 sub-cohort) who require support can attend their GP practice to receive the vaccine when scheduled.

The HSE is aware that there are a 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 has put in place a standardised approach to ensure that arrangements are in place to ensure that those patients over 70 and are housebound receive the vaccine. The HSE on the 4<sup>th</sup> March issued correspondence to GPs asking them to identify those who are housebound so that arrangements can be made in conjunction with the National Ambulance Service for these people to be vaccinated.

There is continuous engagement with the GPs in relation to the rollout of the vaccination programme.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer