



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 Catherine Murphy

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

Date: 22/03/2021

PQ 12139/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical professionals working in the health system that have expressed a preference for a vaccine other than a vaccine (the non-AstraZeneca vaccine) and have declined to receive the vaccine, respectively when offered it to date.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

Thank you for your representation. The roll out of the COVID vaccine programme is in line with the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) plan. When the programme commenced there was one vaccine available the Pfizer BioNtech vaccine. As this was the only vaccine this was offered to frontline healthcare workers in cohort 2. Since the introduction of two additional vaccines, the Moderna vaccine and the AstraZeneca vaccine, NIAC recommended that the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines were administered to the over 70 year olds. AstraZeneca was then prioritised for the other cohorts.

The HSE is encouraging people to avail of the first vaccine that they are offered. The HSE is encouraging employees in the first instance, to comply with HSE objectives in terms of undergoing vaccination (similar to the approach adopted for flu vaccinations). The vaccine programme is not a mandatory for healthcare workers and healthcare workers register via the portal. Data is therefore not available for medical professionals who have declined the vaccine.

I hope that this provides you with assistance,

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO