

Réada Cronin TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

24th March 2021

REPDR/21/12882 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason Covid-19 vaccinations for persons over 85 years of age in north County Kildare are being cancelled in some instances twice; when the vaccine will be available to this cohort in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Réada Cronin

Deputy Cronin,

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and I wish to apologise for the delay in responding to you. I sincerely regret any upset or inconvenience caused to patients and GPs while awaiting confirmation of vaccine delivery.

The HSE is rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine programme in line with the Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups published by government. The plan for immunization of those over 70, in line with the current NIAC recommendations, is that it is being rolled out over the following age categories commencing with those 85 and over, then those aged 80 and over, aged 75 and over and then those 70 and over.

The HSE is working to ensure that the maximum number of GP practices receive vaccine deliveries in line with the supply available to us and is fully committed to ensuring all patients over 70 gain access to the COVID-19 vaccine as required and in line with vaccine supply ensuring that those aged 85 and older living in the community are given priority. It is intended in line with the above that the vaccination of people age 70 and older will be rolled out from mid-February through to May and that all of this age cohort will have been vaccinated (both doses) by the end of May in line with vaccine supply.

The HSE has acknowledged that there were problems with communication with GPs generally and that some issues have arisen with the distribution of vaccines to some GP Practices and has apologised to GP practices, their teams and the patients who may have been impacted by these.

In recognition of the issues the HSE in conjunction with the IMO have now put in place the following arrangements:

- Increased staff on GP Vaccines Team to support GPs with queries and issues on ordering and deliveries in a responsive and timely manner.
- Appointment of dedicated relationship managers for this vaccine programme. A dedicated email address and phone number for GP relationship managers.
- The issue of a regular GP Communications Bulletin to advise of overall vaccine availability for the week, guidance and updates on order and delivery related matters etc.
- Improve the timing of confirmation to GPs on order numbers and delivery dates

I appreciate the time you have taken to make contact with the HSE.

Yours sincerely,



**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Primary Care Strategy and Planning**

