



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Darren O'Rourke TD

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

06/04/2021

PQ13880-21

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated date those in priority group 7 will begin to receive Covid-19 vaccinations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

Thank you for your query.

You'll be aware that on the 30th March 2021, the Minister for Health announced an update to Ireland's COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Strategy. In comprising the initial Vaccine Allocation Strategy, the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) listed several conditions associated with increased risk of severe disease and death. In the intervening period, national and international evidence has become available which has enabled a more detailed analysis of underlying conditions that may increase the risk of developing severe disease or death and continues to monitor data around this disease and indeed emerging data on effectiveness of vaccines on a rolling basis. Further details are available at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/39038-provisional-vaccine-allocation-groups/>

The cohort currently being offered a vaccine (Provisional Allocation Group 4) are those aged 16-69 and at very high risk of severe illness and death. Vaccination of this group began in March.

The HSE is unfortunately unable to advise on a date as to when Provisional Allocation Group 7, those aged 16-64 who have an underlying condition that puts them at high risk of severe disease and death, will begin to be offered vaccinations.

The HSE is implementing the COVID-19 vaccination programme in line with the Government policy as quickly possible and emphasise that vaccination is only one part of our response to the prevention of COVID-19 infection and that we must continue to adhere to public health guidance, i.e., limiting our social contacts, physical distancing, wearing a mask, hand hygiene, cough etiquette and avoiding non-essential travel until a sufficiently large proportion of the population are immune.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Is mise le meas,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pp

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO