



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 Thomas Gould TD**

Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2  
Email:

06/04/2021

**PQ 14116-21** To ask the Minister for Health if vaccinations will be completed in each cohort before moving onto the next excluding the cohort of over 75s given the clinical decision that such persons cannot receive a particular vaccine (details supplied). -

Dear Deputy,

Thank you for your representation. Now that safe and effective vaccines are available, we understand that people wish to be vaccinated as quickly as possible. The demand for vaccines has surpassed the available supply.

On Tuesday 30 March 2021, the government approved an update to the [COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Strategy](#). This strategy sets out the groups to be prioritised for vaccination to best achieve the vaccination programme's objectives of preventing serious illness, hospitalisation and death. It is based on clinical, scientific and ethical frameworks produced by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and the Department of Health.

The NIAC has now been able to more comprehensively identify those medical conditions and to distinguish between those which place a person at very high or high risk of severe disease if they contract the virus. Medical conditions and the magnitude of the risk they pose will continue to be monitored and periodically reviewed.

People aged over 75 years were included in cohort 3, vaccination of this group is near completion. It is important to emphasise that vaccination is only one part of our response to the prevention of COVID-19 infection. People who are vaccinated need to continue with all the public health measures that have been proven to reduce the risk of infection, 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 provides you with assistance,

Yours faithfully

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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the CCO