

**18<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**

Ms. Róisín Shortall T.D.  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 15322/21**

“To ask the Minister for Health the online training courses which are required for recently retired nurses to be complete into order to come back and work as a vaccinator for the Covid-19 vaccination programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to your Parliamentary Question above which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. The following outlines the position:

Training requirements for all vaccinators (including nurses and midwives) listed in the relevant statutory instruments, SI698/2020 and SI 81/2021, must be approved/agreed by the relevant regulatory body and varies between the professions. In the case of nurses and midwives, the regulatory body is the NMBI. The training required for registered nurses and registered midwives to vaccinate under medicine protocol is approved by NMBI and delivered by the HSE through its centres for nurses and midwives education with some elements available on line.

The elements are outlined below:

- Education programme for nurses and midwives (“COVID-19 Education Programme for Nurses and Midwives”) via HSELand.
- Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers within the last two years (online key code from Irish Heart Foundation), followed by a face to face workshop.
- Initial Anaphylaxis programme (“National Anaphylaxis Education Programme for Health Care Professionals”) via HSELand followed by a one and a half hour classroom based skills workshop (replacing the previous four hour classroom based programme). Subsequent updates every two years via HSELand Anaphylaxis e-learning programme available at [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie).
- COVAX IBM/Salesforce (online).
- Also recommended - Storing and Managing Vaccines [www.hseland.ie](http://www.hseland.ie).



The registered nurse/midwife must complete the Competency Assessment Form included in the medicine protocol. This document should be provided to all nurse/midwife vaccinators. Injection technique is not a mandatory requirement, it is included in the Competency Assessment document and can be undertaken if a deficit is identified.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances McNamara', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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**Frances McNamara**  
**Assistant National Director,**  
**Office of the Chief Operations Officer**