

12th April 2021

Deputy Thomas Gould,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ 16304/21

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports that vaccine clinics in Cork City Hall and Melbourne Road, Cork were closed on 20 and 21 March 2021, the opening hours of these clinics on the days in question; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE is offering the vaccine in accordance with the prioritisation list set out by the government which can be viewed on the following link www.gov.ie/covid19vaccine. The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) has continued to keep the priority group listing for COVID-19 vaccine under review, according to current and evolving understanding of the clinical, microbiological and epidemiological profile of COVID-19 internationally and in Ireland, with a focus on those at greatest risk from COVID-19. Most of the population are still at risk of COVID-19.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is working jointly with the South/South West Hospital Group on the provision of the vaccination programme; at all times, we are operating within the vaccination prioritisation groups as outlined by the Government Allocation Strategy.

The vaccination clinic in Melbourne Road is a GP clinic which operates on a rolling fortnightly basis to cater for individuals over the age of 70yrs living in the community. I can confirm that no clinics were scheduled to be in operation on 20th and 21st March. The planned programme of clinics at Melbourne Road has been mobilised and is on schedule we expect to have everyone in this group vaccinated with both doses, by the middle of May.

The vaccination clinic in Cork City Hall was not scheduled to be opened on the 20th and 21st March. Vaccination clinics commenced in City Hall on Friday 1st April and continue to be scheduled going forward, vaccination rollout is however dependent on several factors, e.g., availability of vaccine and vaccine characteristics.

I trust this information is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch