



01st April, 2021

Mr. Neal Richmond T.D.
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 16716/21

PQ ref 16716/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health the reason fully trained staff who have been distributing Covid-19 vaccines in care home settings must retake courses on vaccine administration in order to distribute vaccines in a vaccine hub; 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 above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There is no requirement for a candidate to retake training provided their training is up to date and comprehensive. After a candidate applies to the national COVID-19 vaccinator recruitment campaign, contact is made to assess the candidate’s current training status on the defined training courses. For candidates who declare that they do not require some or all of the training programme, the candidate provides the appropriate evidence of the necessary training and certification to the recruiter. No additional training is required for staff who have been distributing COVID-19 vaccines in care home settings once the appropriate certification and documentation is made available. If training is required, candidates are given information on how to access any training required via HSEland and any relevant third party training suppliers. The HSE through the National Immunisation Office (NIO) and the ONMSD provides specialist training per discipline for staff who work as vaccinators. In addition, a training programme is developed and is being delivered for new Vaccinators (physiotherapists, dentists and optometrists). Vaccine specific training is available for all disciplines on HSEland and the uptake has been very positive to-date.

If you require any further information or clarification regarding training requirements, please contact training.VAX@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Frances McNamara
Assistant National Director,



Office of the Chief Operations Officer