

Gino Kenny TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

12th April 2021

PQ/21/169891- To ask the Minister for Health if the delay regarding general practitioner clinics that did not receive vaccines supplies on time will alter or affect future deliveries of vaccines to those clinics. -Gino Kenny

Deputy Kenny,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your representation in relation to the COVID-19 Vaccine rollout and apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The HSE is rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine programme in line with the Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups published by government. The plan for immunization of those over 70, in line with the current NIAC recommendations, is that it is being rolled out over the following age categories commencing with those 85 and over, then those aged 80 and over, aged 75 and over and then those 70 and over.

Over the next number of deliveries there will be an increase in the supply which will improve further from the 12th April onwards. It is anticipated that all over 70s first dose will be substantially complete by the end of April and that all of this age cohort will have been vaccinated (both doses) by the end of May in line with vaccine supply.

The HSE has acknowledged that some issues have arisen with the distribution of vaccines to some GP Practices and has apologised to GP practices, their teams and the patients who may have been impacted by these.

The HSE in conjunction with the IMO have put in place the following arrangements:

- Increased staff on GP Vaccines Team to support GPs with queries and issues on ordering and deliveries in a responsive and timely manner.
- Appointment of dedicated relationship managers for this vaccine programme. A dedicated email address and phone number for GP relationship managers.
- The issue of a regular GP Communications Bulletin to advise of overall vaccine availability for the week, guidance and updates on order and delivery related matters etc.
- Improve the timing of confirmation to GPs on order numbers and delivery dates

The HSE is fully committed to ensuring all over 70's patients gain access to the COVID-19 vaccine as required.

Yours sincerely,



**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Primary Care Strategy and Planning**

