

Thomas Pringle TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2

12th April 2021

**PQ/21/15969 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason the over 70 age group in one part of County Donegal is being vaccinated before the over 80 age group in another area of the county has been completed; if the countrywide roll-out will be done at different stages in different counties or local areas depending on the availability of the vaccinations in that county or local area; if there will be a concerted effort to ensure the vaccination roll-out will be carried out evenly nationwide with one group being finished before the next group commences; if vaccination teams will be mobilised and sent to areas which fall behind for a verity of reasons; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Thomas Pringle**

Deputy Pringle,

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

The core principle of the programme is to ensure that the oldest and most vulnerable are vaccinated first in line with the age cohorts as set out by NIAC and in line with available supply. The approach to vaccination of Cohort 3 is on a sequential basis i.e. to work through each of the age groups within the Cohort in a phased manner.

The HSE allocate available vaccine supply across GP vaccination sites according to the forecast number of patients in the age cohorts that are due vaccinations. Allocation to general practice is based on a practices registered number of patients with Primary Care Reimbursement Service with any adjustments for private patients being managed on an individual basis with each practice's Relationship Manager.

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 now 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

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.

I trust that the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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

