



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer  
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Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil  
Ospidéal Dr Steevens|Lána Steevens|Baile Átha Cliath 8|D08 W2A8

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Deputy John Lahart**

Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2  
Email:

21/04/2021

**PQ 17578-21 To ask the Minister for Health his plans to review the current position of cohort 7 persons aged 16 to 64 years of age that have an underlying condition that puts them at high risk of severe disease and death in the current vaccination strategy; the number of persons estimated to be in this group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -**

Dear Deputy

Thank you for your representation. As you will be aware the demand and uptake for the COVID vaccine has to date surpassed the supply available.

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the Government approved an update to the [COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Strategy](#). This strategy sets out the groups to be prioritised for vaccination to best achieve the vaccination programme's objectives of preventing serious illness, hospitalisation and death. It is based on clinical, scientific and ethical frameworks produced by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and the Department of Health. The HSE is rolling out the vaccine programme in line with NIAC guidelines and group 4 - 7 will be managed in parallel. Dates are subject to change given the ongoing supply chain uncertainty.

I hope this provides you with assistance,

Yours faithfully

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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the CCO