

Matt Shanahan (TD)
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

28th July 2021

PQ 24331/21– To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has examined the participation of pharmacists in the vaccination programme; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that up to 2,000 pharmacist vaccinators are available to participate in the programme; if drive through vaccination has been examined as has been done successfully in other countries; if so, the status of plans for same; if not, the reason; if the opening of vaccination centres on a 24/7 basis is being examined; the percentage of onsite personnel in centres employed by the HSE who are deferred from other HSE services; the other initiatives being examined to increase vaccination participation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Shanahan

Deputy Shanahan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above PQ which you submitted and we apologise for the delay in responding.

Community Pharmacy is now a part of the National Covid 19 Vaccination Programme having commenced on the 14th June.

In relation to staff deferred, there are currently 1,488.63 WTE vaccinators, 149.07 of those are redeployed (majority of redeployments are in use in hard to resource clinics e.g. CH08 and CH09). There are currently 1,389.54 WTE for all other roles, 133.09 of those are redeployed.

Due to the clinical, operational and logistical exigencies given the nature of the vaccine there are a range of transportation, storage, delivery and security considerations around the vaccines which have been taken into account and which require the vaccines to be delivered within the model agreed if the HSE are to be in a position to assure consistently safe and effective distribution and administration of the vaccine.

I hope the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,
Susan Kenny

General Manager
Community Strategy and Planning

