

**29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021**

Deputy Pearse Doherty,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

*Issued via email to: [pearse.doherty@oireachtas.ie](mailto:pearse.doherty@oireachtas.ie)*

**PQ Number: 52703/21**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to have pharmacies administer Covid-19 booster vaccinations in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Doherty,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

In light of the booster programme extension following the receipt of updated NIAC guidance, we have put plans in place to ensure increased capacity through all vaccination channels and to minimise the impact of staffing on community and acute services that are under pressure.

In the week of 15th November we brought the pharmacy sector onboard which will bring the additional capacity to the booster programme. There are currently ca. 480 pharmacies that are currently participating in the programme across the country with the aim to increase this number to ca. 930 pharmacies.

Pharmacies can now vaccinate across all eligible cohorts. Given their limited capacity, we have asked them too initially focus on HCWs as we are very concerned people will wait for a pharmacy appointment rather than take their scheduled vaccination in a Vaccination Centre, hence reducing vaccination throughput. We have also promoted pharmacies in Co. Donegal as part of our vaccine improvement programme for primary doses.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



**Damien McCallion**  
**National Director**  
**National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme**