

29th Nov. 2021

Deputy Cathal Crowe,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: cathal.crowe@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 54157/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health if plans are being put in place to ensure that those who are issued immunosuppressant's in their homes are referred for their Covid-19 booster shot given that referrals are underway for those who are administered immunosuppressant's in hospital settings.

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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

Each Community Health Organisation (CHO) has established a dedicated team to accept and process referrals for home vaccination for primary vaccination (first and second doses) for eligible persons aged 12 years and older. To date, over 550 vaccines have been administered by CHO teams as part of this phase of the home vaccination programme.

The pathway of the Covid-19 Home Vaccination service to housebound persons has been expanded to include persons eligible to receive an extended primary vaccination or a booster vaccination. This phase of the programme commenced the week of 28th October. This service includes two new groups: immunocompromised persons (as per NIAC guidance) and persons aged 80 years and older eligible for a Covid-19 booster vaccination. To date over 100 Vaccines have been administered by CHO teams as part of this phase of the home vaccination programme. HSE Community Vaccination Teams will visit eligible individuals' homes to administer the additional vaccine dose.

Once this cohort has been completed the HSE will put plans in place to reach persons aged 60-79 who become eligible for their Covid-19 booster vaccination as per the NIAC Guidance. Work is underway on the extension of the Home Vaccination Service to include this new age group.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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