

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

Deputy John Lahart,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

*Issued via email to: [john.lahart@oireachtas.ie](mailto:john.lahart@oireachtas.ie)*

**PQ Number: 54487-21**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health the plans in place for those who meet the criteria for a vaccine booster shot but are unable to leave their homes; the body that will be responsible for the delivery of these shots; when they will start rolling out; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Lahart,

I refer to the above Representation regarding your query concerning homebound individuals and their booster vaccine.

The policy regarding the roll out of the additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine is determined by NIAC and the Department of Health.

The purpose of the additional COVID-19 vaccine dose, as outlined by NIAC, is to address the following possible issues:

- Inadequate response to primary vaccine series
- Waning immunity following vaccination
- Reduced protection against variant(s) of concern

NIAC's advice recommends that people should be administered their booster vaccine after six months but a minimum period of five months. This means the time to complete an age cohort is dependent on the person's original vaccine completion date.

As for those who are housebound and are unable to attend on-site clinics, 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 October 25<sup>th</sup> and will run for a 4 week period up until November 21<sup>st</sup>. 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. 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.

Those individuals who have previously been vaccinated through the home vaccination service and now meet criteria for an additional dose (Immunocompromised status confirmed by treating physician) or booster dose (80yo+ or 65yo+ living in an RCF) will be identified based on data from Covax IT system. No additional referral for home vaccination is required for these persons.

Individuals eligible for an additional dose or booster dose vaccination in accordance with NIAC guidance who now meet the eligibility criteria for a home vaccination service having not previously been vaccinated via this pathway can be referred by one of the following to receive a home vaccination:

- General Practitioner
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Primary Care Service
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Disability Service
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Mental Health Service
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Older Persons Service

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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