

2nd Dec. 2021

Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: jennifer.carrollmacneill@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 57788/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the engagement his Department has had with the Department of Justice and the HSE to ensure the booster vaccine roll-out includes the prison population given the nature of the congregated setting; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Carroll MacNeill,

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

There has been extensive contact throughout the Vaccination Programme with the Irish Prison Service to ensure that persons in the custody of the state have access to the vaccine in accordance with the various advice issued by NIAC. Individuals in the custody of the state were vaccinated in line with initial priority groups. During the roll out of mass vaccination in each of the 12 Irish prison sites all individuals were administered with a vaccine which meant due to being part of that congregated setting those in custody received access to the vaccine earlier than those within age groupings within the community.

Due to the transient nature of the prison population, the Irish Prison Vaccination Programme remains ongoing with vaccination teams continuing to visit each site to administer dose one and dose two vaccinations, those due their booster vaccines are being accommodated during these site visits.

We are continually striving to reach all residents in Ireland to communicate the benefits of COVID-19 vaccinations and encourage uptake.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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