

20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

Ms Sorca Clarke T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Parliamentary Question - 47670/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the reason primary school children in Mullingar, County Westmeath who wish to avail of the school vaccination programme are being offered appointments in vaccination centres in Athlone and Moate which is 45 and 32 kilometres, respectively from their home with no transport links, either public or private, available.**

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

Due to the COVID pandemic the ability to complete schools vaccinations was unfortunately delayed, which resulted in long waiting lists, therefore to address this issue and ensure all students were offered and able to avail of the vaccination in a timely manner, we are presently using the CVC in Moate for school vaccinations to complete the outstanding 2020-2021 waiting list.

Under the 2020-21 Primary School Vaccination Programme, the total number of Junior Infants for vaccination from schools in the Mullingar area was 739. To date, clinic appointments have been offered to all these students; 539 have already been scheduled, with the remaining 200 students offered appointments at two clinics in Moate CVC on Monday & Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> October. Of the 539 previously scheduled, 273 were invited to attend a Primary School Immunisation clinic in Mullingar Primary Care Centre on the Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September. A total of 185 of those invited attended the clinic, i.e. 68% attendance. A mop-up clinic is planned in Mullingar Primary Care Centre on 29<sup>th</sup> October to complete this cohort for 2020-2021.

The team has also planned vaccination clinics for secondary schools in Mullingar Primary Care Centre for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November commencing 2021-2022 vaccination programme.

I trust the above is in order however please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



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**Joseph Ruane**  
**Acting Chief Officer**  
**Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation**