

19th October, 2021

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

Re: Parliamentary Question – 47671/21. To ask the Minister for Health when the next session of the school vaccination programme for primary school children will commence in Mullingar, County Westmeath.

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.

The school vaccination programme was interrupted due to COVID-related demands and the roll-out of the COVID Vaccination Programme. As a result, an immunisation catch-up programme of remaining secondary school students and all primary school junior infants was carried out in late summer 2021, in COVID Vaccination Centres (CVCs) facilities.

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. Of the 539 previously scheduled, 273 were invited to attend a Primary School Immunisation clinic in Mullingar Primary Care Centre on Saturday 4th 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 29th October to complete this cohort for 2020-2021.

In liaison with all schools, preparatory work is currently underway and the programme will commence with Phase 1 of the Secondary School Programme and in this regard the team has also planned vaccination clinics for secondary schools in Mullingar Primary Care Centre for Friday 5th and Saturday 6th November commencing 2021-2022 vaccination programme.

This will be followed by commencement of the Primary School Programme which is due to begin in December 2021.

I trust that the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph Ruane
Acting Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation