

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

Deputy Denis Naughten,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

*Issued via email to: [denis.naughten@oireachtas.ie](mailto:denis.naughten@oireachtas.ie)*

**PQ Number: 50514/21**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health the way in which those who are housebound and over the age of 80 years or housebound and under the age of 80 years but who are immunocompromised, will be administered the Covid-19 booster vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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

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

Currently the advice with the HSE is to provide the 3rd additional primary dose for those with immunocompromised associated with a suboptimal response to vaccines and to provide a booster dose for those aged 60+ and healthcare workers.

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

1. Inadequate response to primary vaccine series
2. Waning immunity following vaccination
3. Reduced protection against variant(s) of concern

NIAC's guidelines recommend that an additional mRNA vaccine dose should be given to those aged 12 and older with immunocompromised associated with a suboptimal response to vaccines who have completed their primary course, regardless of whether the primary course was of an mRNA or an adenoviral vector vaccine. This is an extended primary vaccination course. The additional vaccine dose should be given after a minimum interval of two months following the last dose of an authorised COVID-19 vaccine. This is different from a booster vaccination which may need to be given separately if such a recommendation is made by NIAC in the future.

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 25th and will run for a 4 week period up until November 21st.

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.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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



Seirbhís Sláinte  
Níos Fearr  
á Forbairt

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