



**14<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**

Mr David Cullinane, T.D.,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: 43107/21**

PQ 43107/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health his position in relation to the recent HSE commitment to recruit medical and nursing students as vaccinators; if these positions will be reimbursed; if the HSE can outline the eligibility criteria; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Statutory Instrument No. 245 of 2021 sets out the approved cohort of clinical students that can be recruited as Vaccinators by the HSE. The student for the purpose of working as a Vaccinator is a person who is currently undertaking an approved healthcare degree programme in the ROI in one of the following areas:

- Nursing/ Midwifery Undergraduate Education Programme: Undergraduate students who are registered on the candidate register maintained with the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) entering 3rd year in Autumn 2021, entering 4th year in Autumn 2021 and currently completing their final year and/or awaiting examination results (4th year).
- Pharmacy Undergraduate Entry Programme: Pharmacy degree students entering their 5th year in Autumn 2021 or currently completing their final year (5th year) in Summer 2021.
- Physiotherapy Undergraduate Entry Programmes: Undergraduate Physiotherapy degree students entering their 4th year in Autumn 2021 of an undergraduate programme or currently completing their final year (4th year) in Summer 2021.
- Physiotherapy Graduate Entry Programmes: Graduate Physiotherapy students entering their final year of a graduate entry programme in Autumn 2021 or currently completing their final year of graduate entry programme in Summer 2021.
- Optometry Undergraduate Entry Programme: Undergraduate Optometry students entering their 4th year of an undergraduate programme in Autumn 2021 or currently completing their final year (4th year) in Summer 2021.
- Dentistry Undergraduate Entry Programme: Undergraduate Dentistry students entering their 4th year in Autumn 2021 or entering their 5th Year in Autumn 2021 or currently completing final year in Summer 2021 (current 5th year).



- Medical Undergraduate Entry Programme: Undergraduate medical students registered with a medical school for a Bachelor of Medicine (MB) degree due to graduate in 2021 or 2022 or 2023.
- Medical Graduate Entry Programme: Graduate medical students registered with a medical school for a Bachelor of Medicine (MB) degree due to graduate in 2021 or 2022 or 2023. The vaccinator supervisor and student as vaccinator do not have to be from the same discipline. The clinical lead/deputy assigns a vaccinator supervisor to each student as vaccinator.

Once the clinical student has undergone the necessary training and is appointed into a position they are reimbursed appropriately as all other Vaccinators in line with the following Department of Health approved pay scale:

€35,000-€38,500-€40,000-€41,500-€43,000-€44,500-€46,000-€47,500-€49,000-€50,500

Regardless of professional discipline, all new Vaccinators selected to work in a vaccination clinic are appointed into the Vaccinator role and are paid as a Vaccinator in line with the salary scale above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances McNamara', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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**Frances McNamara**  
**Assistant National Director,**  
**Office of the Chief Operations Officer**