



Office of the Workstream Lead, Vaccination Process & Workforce.
Tel: (045) 988 363
Address: Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Kildare, W91KDC2

Oifig Cheannasaí an tSrutha Oibre, Próiseas Vacsaínithe & Lucht Saothair
Teil: (045) 988 363
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, Nás, Cill Dara, W91KDC2

30th September, 2021

Deputy Joe McHugh,
Kildare Street,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 43331/21

– “To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider facilitating a vaccine roll-out in special schools in an effort to cater for some students who would otherwise find it stressful to attend large vaccine clinics that may be intimidating for some; and if he will make a statement on the matter?”

Dear Deputy McHugh,

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

There have been a number of dedicated neuro-diversity and extra-sensory clinics operating at Central Vaccination Clinics (CVCs). These are designed to operate in relaxed and quiet environments to suit people who require additional support. In some cases these clinics were planned in conjunction with special schools, to ensure design was fit for purpose and accessible to individuals with additional needs. Many clinics can also, by arrangement, accommodate people outside of normal hours, to avoid crowds and provide vaccination in an environment which is more suitable. In normal operating hours, staff and queue management will fast track people who require extra assistance and manage their needs accordingly.

In addition, those who have special needs have received vaccination through the housebound pathway. This pathway is open to people over the age of 12 and who present with very high risk or high risk medical conditions and who are housebound. An individual is housebound if they are unable to leave their home at all, or if they require significant assistance to leave the house due to illness, frailty, surgery, disability, mental ill health or nearing end of life (end of life individuals require a GP / specialist palliative care team referral).

Referrals can be submitted to the regional CHO Vaccination Team/Home Vaccination Team for the housebound programme of vaccination by the following:

- General Practitioner
- Residential Care Facility Person in Charge
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Primary Care Service
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Disability Service
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Mental Health Service
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Older Persons Service
- Person in Charge in Long Term Residential Care Facilities in the CHO area.

Once the individual's details have been submitted they will be contacted by the vaccination team regarding their appointment.

I trust this is of assistance.
Yours sincerely,

David Walsh
Workstream Lead Vaccination Process and Workforce