



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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28th. September 2021

Deputy Denis Naughten
TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare Street
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PQ44363/21: To ask the Minister for Health the uptake rate for the flu vaccine in winter 2020 in adults, children over 12 and children under 12 years of age; his plans to encourage increased vaccination rates in each age group during winter 2021; his plans to extend the nasal vaccine to a wider age group; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The above PQ has been forwarded to my Department for direct response to you on same.

Provisional data for the flu vaccine in the flu season 2020/2021 is as follows:

Flu vaccine uptake in adults 65 years and older (all of whom are recommended the vaccine) was 71.2%

For children over 12 (children aged 13-17 years) the uptake was 2.5%

Uptake for children 2-12 years of age was 29%

[Influenza and adults 65 years and older - Health Protection Surveillance Centre \(hpsc.ie\)](https://www.hpsc.ie)

HPSC have published the influenza vaccine uptake in adults aged 65 years and over here: [Influenza and adults 65 years and older - Health Protection Surveillance Centre \(hpsc.ie\)](https://www.hpsc.ie)

The HSE will begin a national flu vaccine campaign in October 2021, with communications activity continuing throughout the flu season to provide information for people who are entitled to receive HSE flu vaccine the information they need to make an informed decision about the vaccine and how to get it. This information will be shared across a number of channels including national and local media - radio, press ads, digital display ads, search ads, and targeted social media.

The flu vaccine will be available free of charge to adults and children (from two years old) at risk of flu and its complications. The nasal flu vaccine will be available to children aged 2 to 17 years, which are the only age groups to whom it is licensed to be given. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/flu-vaccination/about-the-vaccine/>

I trust this clarification will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelleher', with a horizontal line underneath.

DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI
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