

CC/ML/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

1st October 2021

Mr Michael Lowry TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 45017/21

***To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide the vaccination status and appropriate data for the number of pregnant women and their partners who have or are currently attending maternity services in University Maternity Hospital Limerick from January 2021 to September 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Lowry,

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.

Data on the vaccination status of inpatient pregnant women and their partners is not routinely recorded on admission at University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UMHL). Between the 6th of September and the 12th September 2021 a sample survey of our inpatients was carried out to determine vaccination status. Of those that responded to the survey, 31% were vaccinated. As such, 69% of our inpatients were not vaccinated, this has been identified risk factor.

As part of our efforts to keep the hospital safe and accessible for all service users, their loved ones and our staff, we have been running a Satellite COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at UMHL, offering the Pfizer vaccine to expectant mothers attending our antenatal clinics and inpatients who wish to be vaccinated, in line with National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) guidance that pregnant women can receive mRNA vaccines at any stage of pregnancy.

Any woman with an antenatal appointment at UMHL who would like to be vaccinated should bring a photo ID showing date of birth, such as a driving licence, Public Services Card, travel pass, passport, Garda-issued National Age Card, or school or college ID. If your photo ID does not have date of birth, bring your birth certificate also. Those aged under 16 years must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Any expectant or new mothers with concerns about the vaccine may contact the maternity hospital's dedicated vaccination helpline on 087-3593568 from 9am to 2.30pm, Monday to Friday.



Working together, caring for you

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I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group



University Hospital Limerick is a member of **UL Hospitals Group** which also comprises; Nenagh Hospital, Ennis Hospital, Croom Orthopaedic Hospital, University Maternity Hospital Limerick and St. John's Hospital (voluntary).