



Oifig anStiúrthóir  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

Foirgneamh Aibhneacha, Crosbhóthar  
Thamhlachta, Tamhlacht,  
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8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Deputy Brendan Griffin TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ7539/22** *To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding ambulance and paramedic personnel who are unvaccinated; if such personnel will be returned to frontline duty in the near future; if a distinction in treatment exists for unvaccinated personnel who are recently recovered from Covid-19; if the National Ambulance Service will explain the rationale for policy in this area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Brendan Griffin*

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Ambulance Service (NAS) 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.

The most recent wave of COVID (Omicron) is now in decline. In the context of the high levels of vaccination across the population, the availability of new therapeutics to treat COVID and the recent Government decision to remove most social restrictions, the HSE's Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) has now re-evaluated the risk to unvaccinated staff in the workplace.

The CCO has advised that the likelihood that a small cohort of unvaccinated staff have been exposed to COVID will have developed some degree of protection and that most staff and patients have been vaccinated, the risk to unvaccinated staff in the workplace has now decreased significantly.

In this regard, we are now advised that it is safe for most unvaccinated staff, including healthy pregnant staff, to return to their substantive post without limitations with effect from Tuesday 1 March 2022. Some cohorts of staff that have pre-existing or certain new conditions should not be returned to their substantive roles, this is to protect the health, safety and well-being of these staff.

I trust that this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman  
Deputy Director  
National Ambulance Service

