



20th Jan. 2022

Deputy John Lahart,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: john.lahart@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 1582/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health when an alternative booster shot will be available for a very small cohort of persons who have been advised for medical reasons not to receive a further vaccine (details supplied) but instead another vaccine in its place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Lahart,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The policy regarding the roll out of the booster doses of Covid-19 vaccine is determined by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and the Department of Health.

As recommended by NIAC, currently the only vaccine type recommended for booster in Ireland is an mRNA vaccine, either Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna), for all authorised age groups who have completed their primary course with any vaccine type. This is with an exception for those cases where the mRNA vaccine is not recommended due to medical reasons.

Currently the only vaccine available for these patients is Covid-19 vaccine Janssen. Anyone requiring such an arrangement can contact HSELive (tel: 1800 700 700) and request an appointment. Currently there are fewer than 10 people awaiting an appointment for a Janssen booster dose as per our records.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Damien McCallion
National Director
National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme