



1st Feb. 2022

Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 3388-22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the booster campaign for immunocompromised persons who were offered a third dose of the Covid-19 vaccine as part of their primary vaccine regime; if these persons were offered booster appointments; if not, if they were required to book appointments themselves; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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

On the 20th August, the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) recommended that an additional mRNA vaccine dose should be given to those aged 12 and older with immunocompromise associated with a suboptimal response to vaccines who have completed their primary course, regardless of whether the primary course was of an mRNA or an adenoviral vector vaccine. This is an extended primary vaccination course with a minimum interval of two months following the last dose of an authorised COVID-19 vaccine.

Third dose vaccinations for immunocompromised persons began Thursday 30th September in hospitals and on October 2nd in Vaccination Centres (VCs). To date, c.107k individuals have received this additional dose as part of their primary vaccination course. Those same individuals who are aged 16 are then eligible for their booster vaccination 3 months after this additional dose.

The HSE issues SMS texts informing the individual of their eligibility for a booster dose as a result of their immunocompromised status. The text provides a link to where they can self-schedule an appointment for their booster, and as with all other eligible cohorts, all channels are open for booster vaccinations including participating GPs, pharmacies and some walk-in vaccination clinics. All information is available on the HSE website.

The administration of booster vaccines to immunocompromised persons began in the week commencing 17th January and to date c.7k booster vaccinations have been administered to this group out of an estimated cohort of c.107k.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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