



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

Foirgneamh Aibhneacha, Crosbhóthar
Thamhlachta, Tamhlacht,
Baile Átha Cliath D24 XNP2

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8th March 2022

Deputy Dara Calleary TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ12413/22

To ask the Minister for Health if there is a plan in place to allow unvaccinated HSE paramedics to return to work. - Dara Calleary

Dear Deputy Calleary,

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

