



25th October 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: neasa.hourigan@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 50675/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 529 of 20 September 2022, if members of the national HSE executive management team were offered first dose Covid-19 vaccines in 2021 as part of the national roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine programme to HSE staff, or as part of a separate scheduling process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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

As advised in PQ Number: 45677/22 response there was no separate process for the administration of the Covid-19 vaccine to HSE Executive Management Team (EMT) members. All EMT members were eligible for their vaccination when the cohort relevant to their circumstance arose. The date on which public servants were offered access to a Covid-19 vaccine was dependant on their alignment to the sequencing guidelines rather than their employment as a public servant, given the broad spectrum of those employed within the public service these dates would vary.

In December 2020, the government published a COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy and Implementation Plan. This document provided the provisional sequencing in which groups were to be vaccinated. In March 2021, the government approved an update to the COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Strategy. Based on clinical, scientific and ethical frameworks produced by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and the Department of Health, this update set out the groups to be prioritised for vaccination to best achieve the Vaccination Programme's objectives of preventing serious illness, hospitalisation and death.

HSE vaccination clinics were directed to follow the scheduling in the Government Strategy. Additional guidance was put in place by the Chief Clinical Officer in scheduling appropriate staff taking into account their risk of exposure to Covid 19 in their work setting rather than their grade. This documentation can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/covid-19-vaccine-materials/sequencing-of-covid-19-vaccination-of-frontline-healthcare-workers.pdf>



The HSE has successfully implemented the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme in line with original government direction and the many required changes throughout the past two years. The Covid-19 Vaccination Programme has seen over 12 million Covid-19 vaccinations administered encompassing primary doses, additional doses, first, second and third boosters.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Eileen Whelan'.

Eileen Whelan
National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme