



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géarobriochtaí

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Deputy Roisin Shortall TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

23.09.22

Re: PQ 44063 44064

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of monkeypox vaccine doses that have been ordered to date; the number that have been delivered; the schedule for delivery of the remaining; the number that have been used to treat monkeypox patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that he expects to vaccinate against monkeypox by the end of 2022, given that the vaccine can now be administered intradermally; if the eligibility criteria for vaccination will be updated in view of this change; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The HSE is working to expand the monkeypox vaccination programme. While vaccine supplies in Ireland are limited, the recent approval by the European Medicines Agency of interdermal administration of the vaccine, will allow the HSE to offer the vaccine to more people than initially anticipated, within the current limited supplies.

The HSE estimates that around 6,000 people may be at heightened risk of monkeypox infection in Ireland. The first phase of the vaccine programme, which is underway, is offering the vaccine to around 600 people. Our proposed second phase, using the new method of administration is expected to allow for vaccination of 40-50% of the estimated number in need.

The HSE is finalising a range of operational issues in advance of the commencement of the second phase of the vaccine rollout.

Currently, the number of new monkeypox cases in Ireland, week on week, is stable.

The first phase of the vaccine roll out commenced in September and is active and ongoing. Vaccines are being offered to close contacts of monkeypox cases and people who have had early infectious syphilis (EIS) between December 2021 and July 2022. This group were identified as including some of those at the highest risk, apart from close contacts of a confirmed case.

The HSE sought the advice and guidance of clinical and ethical experts to develop a plan for the initial offer of the limited supply of vaccines currently available. The HSE has also engaged closely with advocacy and support groups to seek their input.

At this time, supplies of vaccine in Ireland and in the EU are low and limited. Ireland, along with other EU countries is actively exploring options to increase our medium to long-term supply of vaccines. Separately, the HSE will ensure that it maintains a supply of vaccine which will be available for those intermediate and high-risk contacts of a confirmed case.



Based on current indications in relation to global supplies of vaccines, Ireland is likely to have increased vaccine supplies later this year and into next year.

A Clinical Advisory Prioritisation group was established by the Chief Clinical Officer to provide guidance on the prioritisation groups for vaccination. This has now been completed and the prioritisation criteria will form part of the HSE's communication and community engagement initiatives as we progress to operationalise the next phase of the vaccination roll out.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ciaran Browne'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Ciaran Browne
Acute Operations – HSE
National Crisis Management Team Lead (MonkeyPox)