



Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Covid Unit
24/25 Doughcloyne Industrial Estate
Sarsfields Road
Wilton
Cork
Eircode: T12Y821

31st January 2023

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 1716/23

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 195 of 23 November 2022, when senior mental health management in Cork CHO 4 were offered their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine relative to when long-stay residents aged over-65 years in St. Stephen's Hospital, Glanmire, and the Owenacurra Centre, Midleton, were offered their first-dose vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The National Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy was informed by the Government document on “Provisional Vaccine Allocation Groups” published on the 8th of December 2020 which outlined that residents and staff in Long Term Residential Care Facilities for Older People aged 65 years and older and all frontline Healthcare Workers would be the initial groups identified for vaccination.

The long stay units at St Stephen’s Campus and the Owenacurra Centre are registered under the auspices of the Mental Health Commission as residential units for those with mental health needs. Residents in mental health units were included in an expansion of the national vaccination programme from the week of January 25th 2021 and vaccination was carried out during a scheduled visit by a mobile vaccination teams. Staff were offered vaccination on site where supply allowed, given that the primary vaccination programme for staff through centralised clinics had also commenced at this stage.

All other staff were offered sequenced appointments in centralised vaccination clinics set up specifically to vaccinate staff from late December 2020 onwards. This healthcare worker programme ran concurrently with the residential programme described above and its subsequent expansions.

In response to your query, the dates on which long stay residents were vaccinated depended on the dates of the scheduled visit by the mobile team. Similarly, the dates on which staff were vaccinated depended on which of the staff vaccination streams that they accessed their vaccination. The vaccination programme for staff and long stay residents ran concurrently.

Vaccination records, including dates of vaccination, for residents of our services and healthcare workers are recorded and retained on the Covax IT system in the same way as for all members

of the public, in the format of individual clinical records. The records are therefore subject to GDPR protections in regard to confidentiality of such clinical records.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen O'Mahony

**Kathleen O'Mahony,
General Manager,
Covid Unit,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**