

**Oifig Náisiúnta Imdhíonta** Aonaid 8/9 Páirc Gnó Shráid an Mhainéir Sráid an Mhainéir Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 X320 HSE National Immunisation Office Unit 8/9 Manor Street Business Park Manor Street

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14th February 2023

Deputy Whitmore, Dáil Éireann, Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Re: To ask the Minister for Health the number of child flu vaccine doses acquired by the HSE for the 2022-2023 winter period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jennifer Whitmore

To ask the Minister for Health the number of child flu vaccine doses distributed by the HSE for flu for the 2022-2023 winter period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jennifer Whitmore

To ask the Minister for Health the number of child flu vaccines which expired in January 2023; the number disposed of; the means of disposal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jennifer Whitmore

To ask the Minister for Health the number of childhood flu vaccines distributed by GPs, pharmacists and walk-in clinics in the winter 2022-2023 period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jennifer Whitmore

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

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

In line with Department of Health Immunisation Policy, the HSE procured sufficient doses of flu vaccines to ensure all those who require a vaccine have the ability to receive one this flu seasons 2022-23.

The flu vaccination season 2022-23 is still in progress. The HSE continue to distribute vaccines in line with demand to eligible cohorts including children who are at high risk of flu.

Depending on age and medical conditions, children may receive the quadrivalent influenza injectable vaccine or the live attenuated influenza vaccine. The live attenuated influenza vaccination programme has now completed however, children at high risk of flu are still being encouraged to get the injectable flu vaccine at their GP or pharmacy. Information on eligibility is available from <u>www.hse.ie/flu</u>.

As the season is ongoing the data is not yet available. Information will be available after the flu season ends.

No flu vaccines have been disposed of for the 2022-23 season

Yours sincerely,

Dr Aparna Keegan, Specialist in Public Health Medicine National Immunisation Office MCRN 430289