



15th May 2023

Deputy Robert Troy,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: robert.troy@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 20921/23

Question: To ask the Minister for Health when community facilities which are currently being used as vaccination centres will be discontinued; if he agrees that such vaccination hubs are no longer necessary and the cost of renting such facilities no longer constitute value for money; and the continued use of some vaccination hubs is interfering with community use of buildings.

Dear Deputy Troy,

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

The successful Covid Vaccination Programme could not have achieved its goals without the support of communities across the country. Not only did people come forward to receive their vaccines, they also came forward in great numbers to both work and act as volunteers at a range of fixed and temporary vaccination centres around the country.

Some communities, for the common good, agreed to make their community facilities whether sports facilities or other community halls available for use as vaccination centres and many thousands of citizens were vaccinated there.

The Covid Vaccination Programme has now moved to a new phase and the need for fixed vaccination centres has diminished. The HSE is currently working with the Department of Health and other partners on a plan to deliver that next phase. It is not envisaged that community facilities would form a standing vaccination capacity into the future but may, by agreement, be used for pop up purposes.

It is expected that the last community facilities will cease to be used for the programme by the end of June this year.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Eileen Whelan
National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme