



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
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15th July 2024

PQ28115/24- Deputy Róisín Shortall- To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been brought to the difficulties faced by many Long Covid patients in accessing Covid-19 booster vaccines, in particular a non-mRNA vaccine (details supplied); if he will engage with the HSE to ensure that there is a clearly documented process to signpost how Long Covid and immunocompromised patients can access the non-mRNA vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

Thank you for your representation. The National Immunisation Advisory Committee provide the Department of Health with the immunisation advice that enables them to make a policy decision. The HSE then operationalise this policy decision.

[NIAC recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination \(Updated 2024\) Royal College of Physicians of Ireland \(preservica.com\).](#)

Novavax COVID 19 vaccine was available from HSE vaccination teams for the Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 for those who were eligible to receive a booster vaccine and could not or did not want to receive an mRNA vaccine.

There are 20 HSE Vaccination bases from which HSE Mobile Vaccination teams operate, providing Pop-up clinics in facilities across the country e.g., Primary Care centres. During the Spring programme there were 63 Novavax vaccinations administered by the HSE Vaccination teams to eligible individuals who had made their request for a non-mRNA vaccine with HSElive.

The HSE is developing guidance based on the NIAC recommendations approved by the Department for the Autumn Winter vaccination programme. Individuals who require support can contact HSElive on 1800 700 700 to request the Novavax vaccine.

It is important to state that people are not required to prove that they are immunocompromised or have any other specific condition to access the Novavax vaccine. We will ask that guidance under development for the Autumn Winter vaccination programme is clear on this point.



I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Hayden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'S' and 'H'.

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer