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14/05/2025

Deputy Murphy
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: 19839/25 - To ask the Minister for Health how individuals over the age of 60 that are at a high risk from diabetes, thus not suitable for the Pfizer vaccination, can access the Novavax. -Michael Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA vaccine and is the preferred COVID-19 vaccine recommended by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) for all eligible groups. The HSE has endeavoured to obtain supplies of Nuvaxovid (Novavax) vaccine for the COVID-19 vaccination programme for those who have medical contraindications to mRNA vaccines or prefer non mRNA vaccines. However, Nuvaxovid (Novavax) is not currently available in Ireland. The HSE is continuing its efforts to obtain supplies of the vaccine. People who require or request a non mRNA vaccine can be advised to phone HSELive at 1800 700 700 to be added to a list to be contacted if/when Nuvaxovid (Novavax) becomes available.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Lucy Jessop

Consultant in Public Health Medicine – National Immunisation Lead

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