



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Chief Operations Officer,
Saolta University Health Care Group,
Old Nurses Home,
University Hospital,
Newcastle Road.
Galway.
Tel: 091 893800

Alan Dillon T.D.
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

10th February 2021

RE: PQ 3954/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of vaccine dosages supplied by the Saolta Group to hospitals; the number of personnel who have received their first shot of vaccine; the decision process to determine the number of dosages to be supplied to each hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Dillon,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question/Public Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position in relation to vaccine supply/dosages in the Saolta University Health Care Group.

The allocation of vaccines is based on the Government's published plan which sets high level priorities and guidance. Availability is limited by supply, which will improve over time and all front line healthcare workers will be vaccinated as quickly as possible in light of this constraint. The National Immunisation Office has allocated vaccines to Hospital Groups based on the number and level of hospitals in each group, the number of doses requested by each group and vaccine supply. During Week 1 of the programme (from 29 December, 2020), Galway University Hospital was identified as one of four 'pilot sites' for vaccination, along with St James' Hospital Dublin, Cork University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital. The pilot sites were chosen because they were Level Four sites, geographically spread around the State, and with a large staff base. As vaccine supplies increased (W/C January 4), vaccines were distributed to additional hospitals. The amounts they requested depended on factors including staff numbers, and the expected time required to familiarise staff with handling/management of vaccine. Therefore, some hospital groups were ahead of others in terms of volumes received by the end of week 2.

In addition, some hospital groups were vaccinating community health staff, GPs and paramedics and that is reflected in the amount of vaccine they requested and were allocated. In the week commencing 11th January the rollout programme widened to include Long Term Residential Care Facilities. This placed increased demand on the limited supply of vaccines. Allocations to hospital group areas were agreed based on staff numbers and on the size of population served. Allocations were made to each Integrated Steering Group (a group representing Hospitals and Community Health Services in the area) for distribution across sites and services in accordance with the national plan. In the week commencing 18th January vaccine allocations to Hospital Groups have been limited to second dose only (in line with number of vaccines administered in Week 1). This is in light of supply of Pfizer BioNtech being reduced by 50% and the concentration on vaccinating residents and staff of long-term care facilities mid January, which hospital vaccination teams are supporting.

The rollout of the Astra Zeneca vaccine to Healthcare Workers began on Monday, 8th February with the delivery of vaccine stocks across Hospital Group sites and vaccination administration training. A total of 15,000 doses of Astra Zeneca are being distributed to 29 hospital locations nationally for the administration of first dose vaccines to prioritised frontline health care workers from acute hospital, community, private and voluntary health care services this week. It is anticipated that this number will increase significantly in subsequent weeks until all frontline healthcare workers have been offered a vaccine.

The below table outlines the number of Health Care Workers who have received Dose 1 and Dose 2 of the vaccine. Figures are correct as at the 8th February 2021. The Saolta University Health Care Group has administered all vaccines that were provided to us.

Hospital Site	Total Health Care Workers (Hospital/Community/Other) Dose 1	Total Health Care Workers (Hospital/Community/Other) Dose 2
Galway	5702	4794
Letterkenny	1095	827
Mayo	1052	760
Portluncula	975	807
Roscommon	662	589
Sligo	937	867
Total	10,423	8,644

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Ann Cosgrove,
Chief Operations Officer,
Saolta University Health Care Group