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Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Kieran O'Donnell

Dáil Éireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2 Email:

Date: 10th of February 2021

PQ 4360/21 (106) To ask the Minister for Health the details of the deliveries of a vaccine (details supplied) to each of the seven hospital groups to date in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. by quantities, dates delivered, end destinations for example hospitals and so on, the specific groups targeted and any other relevant information ; Pfizer/BionTech Vaccine

Dear Deputy O'Donnell

The allocation of vaccines is based on the Government's published plan which sets high level priorities and guidance. Availability is unfortunately 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), vaccine doses were allocated to four 'pilot' sites: St James' Hospital Dublin, Cork University Hospital, Beaumont Hospital and Galway University Hospital. These 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.

Vaccine allocation has been to hospital groups who are allocating to community as well.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely

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Sharon Hayden General Manager Office of the CCO