

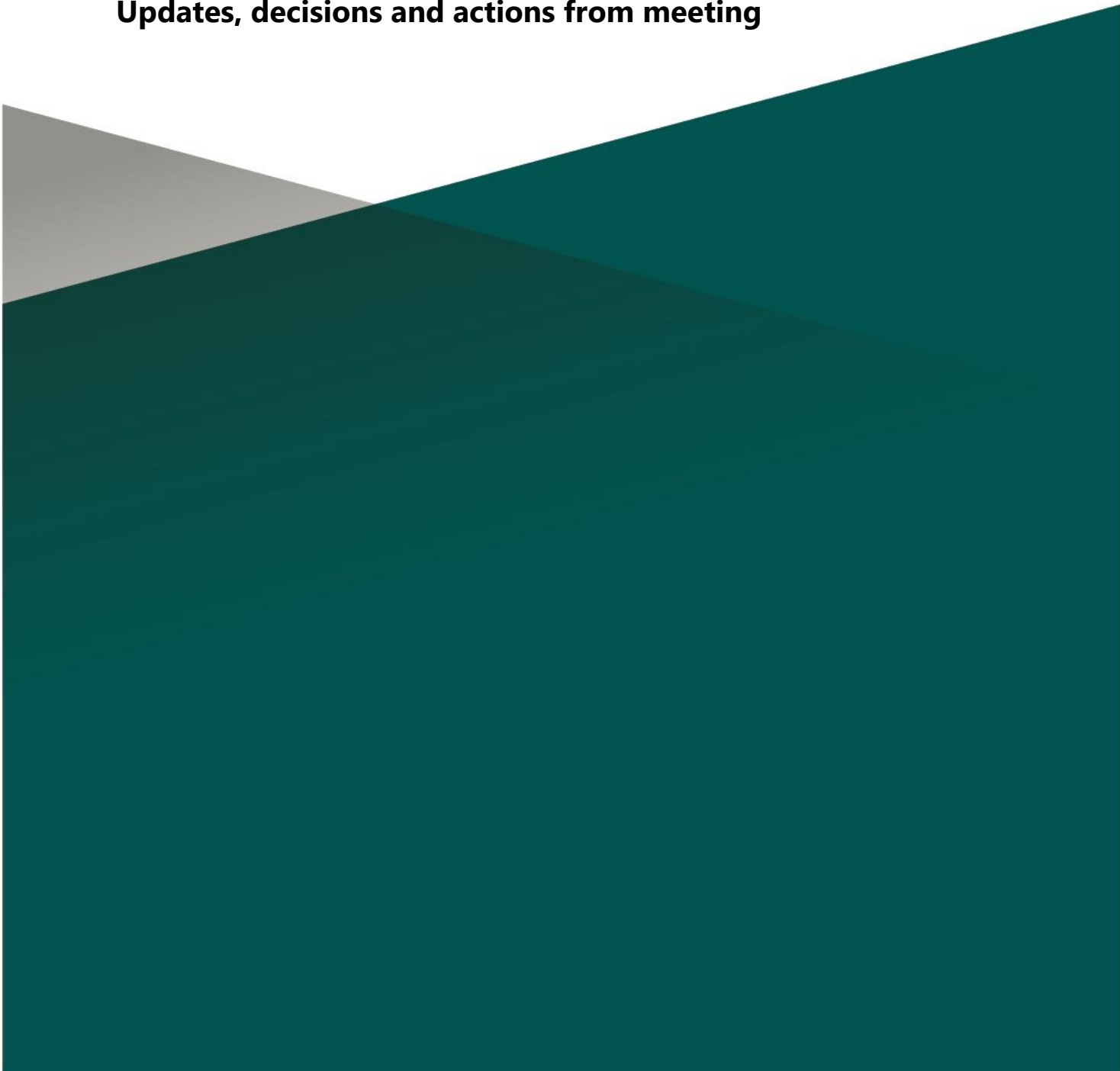


Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

16th December 2020 Meeting

Updates, decisions and actions from meeting



High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

Wednesday 16th December 2020 16:00

Updates, decisions and actions arising from meeting

1. Attendees

A. Members in attendance	B. Additional attendees in support
Prof. Brian MacCraith, Task Force Chair	<i>i. Task Force Secretariat</i>
Dr Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, DOH	Nick Callan, Task Force Secretariat
Fergal Goodman, Assistant Secretary, Health Protection Division, DOH	<i>ii. In Attendance</i>
Liz Canavan, Chair, Senior Officials Group on COVID-19	Dr Lorraine Doherty, Clinical Director Health Protection, HSE
Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer, HSE	Sean Bresnan, National Director of Procurement, HSE
Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE	Gerry O'Brien, Director, Health Protection, DOH
Paul Quinn, Government CPO and CEO, OGP	Deirdre Watters, Head of Communications, DOH
Barry Lowry, Chief Information Officer, OGCIO	Lucy Jessop, SRO Director, National Immunisation Office, HSE
Dermot Mulligan, Assistant Secretary, Innovation and Investment Division, DETE	David Walsh, SRO WS4 - Vaccine Process & Workforce
Derek McCormack, Expert on Cold Chain Logistics	John Cuddihy, SRO WS5 - Surveillance, Monitoring and Reporting
Martin Shanahan, Chief Executive Officer, IDA	Fran Thompson, SRO WS6 - Enabling Technology & Information
Dalton Philips, Chief Executive Officer, DAA	<i>iii. Programme support</i>
Lorraine Nolan, Chief Executive, Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA)	Michael McDaid (PwC), Programme Office
Rachel Kenna, Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health	Yvonne Mowlds (PwC), Programme Office
Derek Tierney, Programme Director	

2. Updates, decisions and approvals by Task Force

At the meeting, the Task Force:

1. Noted that the **National COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy and Implementation Plan** were delivered by the Task Force on 11 December, approved by Government on 15 December and subsequently published on gov.ie, in partial fulfilment of the TF's Terms of Reference: "*Working with the Department of Health and Health Service Executive, to develop a national COVID-19 vaccination strategy and implementation plan for the safe, effective and efficient procurement, distribution, delivery and recording of COVID-19 vaccines when approved vaccines are ready to be distributed.*"
2. Heard **updates on open actions** from previous meetings, all of which have now been completed. Specifically, it was noted that the agreed approach to management of media communications is that media requests and queries will be coordinated by DOH. It was also noted that the additional meeting of the TF to approve the Strategy and Implementation Plan documents was completed via bilateral meetings.
3. Discussed the matter of **informed consent** and agreed:
 - The importance of providing clear information on consent to recipients;
 - The need to have product and EMA licensing information in advance in order to develop appropriate consent materials;
 - The need to finalise details around the consent process as soon as possible while ensuring the highest standards are maintained.
4. Noted that the overall work programme and the individual workstreams are progressing well, and heard updates on a number of workstreams from the WS SROs.
5. On **WS 2 - Vaccine Supply Chain & Logistics**, the TF discussed delivery and distribution of the vaccine, and noted that:
 - WS2 will be co-led by Dr. Lucy Jessop, NIO and Sean Bresnan, HSE Procurement;
 - The European Medicine Agencies (EMA) is bringing forward a meeting of the human medicines committee (CHMP) to 21 December;
 - The distribution model will need to be considered in light of this earlier meeting;
 - Discussions with Pfizer/BioNTech are ongoing, with clear information expected on volume of vaccine, date and route by 21 December;
 - Advice will be sought from NIAC regarding clinical guidance on selecting the Initial groups for vaccination within the first prioritised cohort (Residential Care Facilities) in the context of limited supplies of the initial vaccine, i.e. any advice on sub-prioritisation;
 - It will be important to optimise distribution of the initial vaccine allocation, including the possibility of direct distribution to point of vaccination in the initial phase;
 - It will be important to track the integrity of the vaccine, including through real-time inventory information and GPS tracking;
 - Discussions are ongoing on the logistics of vaccine delivery and dispensation; any sub-lotting of vaccine batches will be subject to HPRA approval; the HPRA will be available to validate on 24 December.
6. On **WS 4 - Vaccination process and workforce**, the TF agreed:
 - WS 4 will continue with its plan to deliver a trained workforce by 30/31 December based on current sequencing;

- CMO/DOH will liaise with NIAC on initial sequencing at vaccination commencement;
- The initial focus will be on long-term and acute care.

It was also noted that:

- Sufficient workforce will be available to vaccinate;
- Discussions are planned with representatives from the IMO and ICGP;
- Discussions with pharmacy representatives will be organised in the near future.

7. On **WS 6 - Enabling Technology and Information** the TF noted that:

- IBM/Salesforce are currently working onsite; minimum viable product for delivery by 19 December has been agreed;
- Work on a contingency solution is progressing well;
- Workstream 6 is working closely with HPRA.

8. Was provided with a **Communications** update from the SRO of **WS 7** and agreed:

- The launch of the Strategy and Implementation Plan is a significant milestone in communications with the public;
- Public perception will be very important in the early days of vaccination;
- Close work with the HSE will continue in developing communications material.

The Task Force also noted that:

- HSE.ie and gov.ie vaccine pages have launched;
- Focus groups are being held on understanding public sentiment;
- HSE is conducting a survey on immunity and safety;
- A template for consent material has been developed; timely clinical content is required to achieve Day 1 readiness and materials will be considered with NALA;
- A stakeholder advocate forum is being held this evening, with recordings to be shared with 600+ organisations;
- A small number of anti-vaccination demonstrations were noted.

9. Agreed that the next meeting will take place Monday 21 December at 2pm.

New actions agreed by Task Force – 16 December

#	Action	Owner
1	Copies of Strategy and Implementation Plan will be provided to HLTF members on request.	Secretariat
2	CMO/DOH to seek additional guidance from NIAC on sub-prioritisation within Group 1.	Dr Tony Holohan, Fergal Goodman in conjunction with Liz Canavan
3	DOH and NIO to conclude legal and clinical review of consent form(s) and provide to WS7.	Dr Colm Henry, Dr Tony Holohan, Dr Lucy Jessop
4	Confirm approach to distribution model and labelling for Day 1 working through relevant SROs.	Derek Tierney