



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

## 1 February 2021 Meeting

**Updates, decisions and actions from meeting**

## High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

Monday 1 February 2021 14:00

Updates, decisions and actions arising from meeting

### 1. Attendees

<b>A. Members in attendance</b>	<b>B. Additional attendees in support</b>
Prof Brian MacCraith, Task Force Chair	<i>ii. In Attendance</i>
Prof Karina Butler, Chair, NIAC	Sean Bresnan, National Director of Procurement, HSE
Liz Canavan, Chair, SOG on COVID-19	Dr Lorraine Doherty, Clinical Director Health Protection, HSE
Fergal Goodman, Assistant Secretary, Health Protection Division, DOH	Dr Ronan Glynn, Deputy CMO, DOH
Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE	Gerry O'Brien, Director, Health Protection, DOH
Dr Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, DOH	Deirdre Watters, Head of Communications, DOH
Rachel Kenna, Chief Nursing Officer, DOH	Elizabeth Headon, Programme Communications
Barry Lowry, Chief Information Officer, OGCIO	Dr Lucy Jessop, SRO WS2, Director, NIO, HSE
Derek McCormack, Expert on Cold Chain Logistics	David Walsh, SRO WS4
Dermot Mulligan, Assistant Secretary, Innovation and Investment Division, DETE	Dr John Cuddihy, SRO WS5
Lorraine Nolan, Chief Executive, HPRA	Fran Thompson, SRO WS6
Dr Nuala O'Connor, ICGP	David Leach, SRO WS7
Dalton Philips, Chief Executive Officer, DAA	Andrew Byrne, Immunisation and Infectious Diseases Policy, DOH
Paul Quinn, Government CPO and CEO, OGP	Deirdre McNamara, General Manager, Quality & Patient Safety, Acute Hospitals Division, HSE
Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer, HSE	Michael Lohan, IDA
Derek Tierney, Programme Director	Minister Stephen Donnelly, Minister for Health
<b>Additional attendees in support</b>	<i>iii. Programme support</i>
<i>i. Task Force Secretariat</i>	Yvonne Mowlds (PWC), Programme Office
Kate Waterhouse, Task Force Secretariat	

**Apologies:** Professor Karina Butler, Chair, NIAC

## 2. Updates, decisions and approvals by Task Force

At the meeting, the Task Force:

- Reviewed an update on actions, with one complete (HSE Comms Public Information Campaign for Cohort 3 commenced) and two on the agenda for today's meeting (presentations on vaccine centres, workforce and IT; and on vaccine certification).
- Heard a communications update, noting continued high levels of media and public interest (ca. 1m views on gov.ie), and ongoing work on developing accessible information; research showing very high levels of public willingness to be vaccinated (83%); ongoing updates to the COVID datahub; ongoing political/media briefing, including positive engagement at the Joint Health Committee on 29 January; and key news events, including updates on the AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccine (EMA decision, supply disruption, EU negotiations, German position for under-65s) and completion of all possible nursing home residents with first dose. The TF heard details of the HSE public information campaign for cohort 3, which has commenced, including the campaign approach and plans and indicative timelines for distribution of information.
- Heard an update on the vaccination programme and noted that the numbers vaccinated to 31 January (ca. 200,000) are close to the number of doses received in line with the supply-led model of the programme, and that more information is awaited from the EU on supply forecasts and further EMA approvals, while there is some certainty on the supply of Moderna for Q1 2021.
- Discussed upcoming planned activity for w/c 1.2.21, including administration of ca. 46,000 second doses in LTCFs and for front-line care workers, finalisation of detailed plans for Cohort 3 rollout, implementation of a new Logistics Operational Management Unit, strengthening engagement with the HSE PMO; and managing approach for AZ, subject to issuing and consideration of NIAC guidance (update expected tomorrow). The TF discussed the impact of decisions on the AZ vaccine, including modelling work underway on possible scenarios as well as key questions, considerations and decisions. The TF reaffirmed the need for robust planning, transparency, effective communication and protection of the most vulnerable.
- Noted good progress on preparations for the ramp-up phase of the programme (Feb-Mar), with challenges and risks remaining, including reliance on and fragility of the supply chain with ongoing schedule changes; impact of the third wave of infections; vaccination centres and workforce; IT readiness and adoption; and data vulnerability. As part of a status update review of workstreams, the TF also noted further development of the Programme Planning Roadmap; ongoing engagement in relation to AZ and supply; ongoing work on sub-prioritisation of cohorts; and very positive progress on workforce and vaccinations sites, with preparations ongoing for rollout in GP clinics and other vaccination centres.
- Reviewed a detailed presentation on the scaling up of workforce and vaccination centres, which will significantly increase activity projections; good progress was noted on finalising details of locations and activities; on identifying workforce requirements

and availability, and on recruitment; as well as on assessments of sites and technical support needs. Plans for local management were noted, as well as constructive local engagement to date. It was agreed that remaining gaps should be identified this week to ensure timely rollout.

- Reviewed a presentation on Enabling Technology & Information and noted the significant scale and complexity of the enabling technology required; the pace of rollout; the scale, the organisation and structure of the teams involved; and the scale agile delivery approach being used, involving a process of continuous improvement. The TF reviewed achievements to date and plans for the ramp-up phase, including enablement of distribution channels, and key steps, milestones, dependencies and risks. The TF also discussed the ongoing clean-up of data, as well as the production, consolidation, integration and disaggregation of data going forward.
- The TF considered a presentation on vaccination certificates, noting physical and electronic options, data and enabling technology, and relevant EU developments.
- Noted that work will continue on the indicative operational scorecard and that its finalisation is linked to readiness of data and the ICT system.
- Noted, in summary, the impact on logistical implications of decisions on the AZ vaccine; ongoing preparations for rollout to cohort 3; confidence in terms of ICT readiness and adoption, with work remaining; and ongoing work with the HSE PMO to enhance integrated critical path for next cohorts; and reaffirmed that the priority focus of the TF is that all logistical arrangements are in place to match supply.
- Agreed that the next meeting will take place on Monday, 8 February at 2pm.

#### **New actions agreed by Task Force – 1 February**

<b>#</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>
<b>1</b>	HSE to consider NIAC/CMO advice on AstraZeneca vaccine.	Prof Karina Butler, Dr Tony Holohan, Dr Colm Henry
<b>2</b>	New Logistics Operational Management Unit to be mobilised at national cold-chain centre	Sean Bresnan, Derek Tierney
<b>3</b>	Assessment of additional recruitment needs for upscaling of vaccination centres to be finalised.	David Walsh, Derek Tierney
<b>4</b>	Policy considerations and assessment of tools for sub-prioritisation of cohorts to be finalised.	Gerry O'Brien, Fergal Goodman
<b>5</b>	Updates on WS 5 - Surveillance, Monitoring & Reporting - to be given at the 8 Feb HLTF meeting	Dr John Cuddihy