



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

## 19 July 2021 Meeting

**Updates, decisions and actions from meeting**

**High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination****Monday 19 July 2021 14:00****1. Attendees**

<b>A. Members in attendance</b>	<b>B. Additional attendees in support</b>
Prof Brian MacCraith, Task Force Chair	Kate Waterhouse, Task Force Secretariat
Prof Karina Butler, Chair, NIAC	Sean Bresnan, National Director of Procurement, HSE
Liz Canavan, Chair, SOG on COVID-19	Dr Ronan Glynn, Deputy CMO, DOH
Fergal Goodman, Assistant Secretary, Health Protection Division, DOH	Gerry O'Brien, Health Protection Division, DOH
Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE	Deirdre Watters, Head of Communications, DOH
Rachel Kenna, Chief Nursing Officer, DOH	Roisin Collier, DOH
Barry Lowry, Chief Information Officer, OGCI	Eugene Lennon, DETE
Derek McCormack, Expert on Cold Chain Logistics	Michael Lohan, IDA
Dr Lorraine Nolan, Chief Executive, HPRA	Damien McCallion, National Director, HSE
Dr Nuala O'Connor, ICGP	Deirdre McNamara, Acute Hospitals Division, HSE
Dalton Philips, Chief Executive Officer, DAA	Deirdre Gillane, Chief of Staff
Paul Quinn, Government CPO and CEO, OGP	Anna Conlon, Special Advisor
Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer, HSE	Brian Murphy, Special Advisor
Martin Shanahan, Chief Executive Officer, IDA	Susan Mitchell, Special Advisor
Derek Tierney, Programme Director	Keiran Barbalich (PWC), Programme Office
<b>B. Additional attendees in support</b>	Michael Butler (PWC), Programme Office
Paul Flanagan, SRO WS3	Michael McDaid (PWC), Programme Office
David Walsh, SRO WS4	Yvonne Mowlds (PWC), Programme Office
David Leach, SRO WS7	Fiona Smith (PWC), Programme Office

**Apologies:** Dermot Mulligan, Assistant Secretary, Innovation and Investment Division, DETE; Dr. Lorraine Doherty, Clinical Director Health Protection, HSE; Dr Lucy Jessop, SRO WS2, Director, NIO; Dr John Cuddihy, SRO WS5; Eileen Hearne, Government Information Service

## Updates, decisions and approvals by Task Force

At the meeting, the Task Force:

- Noted that, following the cyber-attack, most pharmacy and GP data has now been transferred to COVAX, noted that 370K vaccines were administered w/c 5 July, over 60K vaccines administered on six different days, and allowing access to close to real-time data again; that the milestone of 5m doses administered was reached last week; that demand for the Janssen vaccine remains high though supplies are limited; and that there is currently a focus remains on the efficiency and acceleration of rollout against the threat of Delta variant.
- Heard a communications update: public information campaigns are ongoing, including #ForUsAll and #WeCanDoThis; radio ads continuing in ten languages; partnerships in place with dating apps; 6,000+ queries last week through HSE social media campaign and ca.1m visits to vaccine content on HSE.ie. News coverage last week included: registration for those aged 25-29; continued phased reopening; the digital COVID Cert and pharmacy programme. Research continues to show positive uptake attitudes, including increasing positively attitudes among younger groups.
- Heard a programme update and acknowledged the huge work done by the operational team in achieving more significant milestones: over 5.1m vaccines have now been administered (ca. 77% of adults Dose 1; ca. 64% fully vaccinated); ca. 357K vaccines were administered last week, with 50K administered on 5 of the 7 days; administration of AZ Dose 2 is substantially complete; pharmacies continue to administer Janssen to those aged 18-34, with all Janssen supply (100K) now distributed and the next delivery not expected before early August; mRNA registration portal for those aged 25-29 opened 16 July with quite strong demand; and PharmVax and Covax are now integrated. Plans for w/c 19 July include administration of over 300K vaccines, accelerated administration of Pfizer vaccine, including via extended VC hours; opt-in to portal from today for those aged 18-24.
- Reviewed current issues:
  - Potential procurement of surplus supplies from EU Member States discussed at EU Steering Board – ongoing;
  - Capacity of system to accommodate additional supplies – in hand;
  - Deeper analysis of uptake rates– underway, report in coming weeks;
  - Data transfer for Digital COVID Certificate – acknowledged hugely significant work done, including by HSE, DOH, OGCIO, NIO, DAA, DJ, DOT, GIS and Revenue: expect 2m certs issued/in system by 4pm today.
- Considered a programme status report, noting that supply remain key to the programme, and that work remains ongoing across all workstreams, including under WS4 with vaccinations continuing to progress across cohorts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 and across socially vulnerably groups, and acknowledged again the substantial work by HSE Estates with regard to VCs (43 open). Under WS5, work is underway to analyse uptake with proposals to increase uptake for target populations; and under WS6, in

addition to substantial work on the Digital Covid Certificate, Sprint 12 went live on 15 July and development of Sprint 13 is underway.

- Discussed Integrated Operational Planning, including:
  - Remaining cohorts: 25-29 - online registration opened 16 Jul with appointments already offered this week; 18-24 – registration opened today and expect to offer appointments earlier than planned; 16-17 – work ongoing to ensure readiness, including for medical consent;
  - AZ Acceleration: acknowledged huge work undertaken in a push to complete last week; 432K doses completed to 15 July; 115 people in completion clinics today with all others having been offered appointments;
  - ‘Opt-in’ Programme: demand for Janssen in community pharmacies is high and programme is running smoothly, now reaching 8/9K a day, with over 100K administered to date, mostly to those <50; 52% of opt-ins are 25-29;
  - Administration Efficiency: 93.4% for all vaccines 7-14 July.
  - Pfizer Administration: significant acceleration from this week - reducing buffer stock due to stable Pfizer supply, reducing VC stock, and increasing doses administered in VCs - ca.350-360K appointments; maximising VC capacity;
  - VCs: 43 sites operational with activity exceeding 250K doses for past four weeks; work ongoing on sustainability, with some site issues under discussion/moves underway;
  - No workforce issues identified;
  - DNA analysis: 5.1% for 14 June–11 July based on 1.32m appointments;
  - Waiter profile: acknowledged huge work and major progress in reducing ‘long waiters’ (waiting >7 days for appointment after registration) in 50-80 age group to fewer than 50 people, through:
    - 1) Huge data validation exercise reduced numbers;
    - 2) HSE Live follow-up, arranging for appointments where necessary.
- Discussed vaccine supply and forecast; noted no significant update on EU supply; in the 7-week look ahead, mRNA supplies confirmed to end August, AZ supply confirmed for next four weeks and one further Janssen delivery for July confirmed (quantity unconfirmed); supplies and delivery schedules largely unconfirmed for Q3.
- Noted under medium-term issues that work on future vaccine policy is ongoing, and that NIAC considerations include vaccinations for younger people: that while HSE scenario planning has commenced, NIAC advice is awaited.
- Reviewed operational performance, including the scorecard; vaccine administration efficiency; rolling 7-day cumulative total (still above 350K); Ireland’s position on vaccination status in relation to other EU/EEA countries (6<sup>th</sup> highest); and a heat map of incidence rates, continuing to show the impact of vaccinations as well as increasing incidence rates across unvaccinated groups, highest in those aged 19-24.
- Noted, in summary, completion of AZ Dose 2 acceleration; next phase of the “opt-in” model; the very strong focus on Pfizer acceleration plans; and supply updates. Also acknowledged the many significant milestones reached in the vaccination

programme, and the substantial work done by all involved to implement the programme and the many changes to the model to date (35).

- Agreed that the next meeting of the HLTF will take place on Monday 26 July.