



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
Dr Steevens' Hospital|Steevens' Lane|Dublin 8|D08 W2A8
email: cco@hse.ie

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil
Ospidéal Dr Steevens|Lána Steevens|Baile Átha Cliath 8|D08 W2A8

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

Date: 16 February 2021

PQ ref 7735-21 (181) To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which he expects the health services to be in a position to maintain normal services while at the same time meeting the challenge of vaccination throughout the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

Thank you for your representation. It is important to note that hospitals have been under pressure over the last number of weeks with patients admitted both to the wards and ICU with COVID 19 and with high staff absenteeism as a result of direct infection or designation as a close contact. The volumes of cases and longer than average length of stay (LoS) associated with Covid admissions will result in a slow downturn in the numbers in hospital after we reach a peak. This will continue to challenge our healthcare system.

In relation to the rollout of the vaccine programme the HSE is using agency to recruit new vaccinators for mass vaccination centres. The aim is to ensure that the HSE avoids attracting applications from existing health service employees and thereby risking continuity of services and agreed service developments. The projected workforce to operate the mass vaccination centres are between 1500 (at minimum capacity) and 2,500 WTEs (at max capacity).

I hope this provides you with assistance,

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO