



7th Feb. 2022

Deputy Alan Kelly,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: alan.kelly@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 5651-22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of persons aged over 70 that have received their booster vaccine.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The policy regarding the roll out of the booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine is determined by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and the Department of Health.

The purpose of the additional COVID-19 vaccine dose, as outlined by NIAC, is to address the following possible issues:

- Inadequate response to primary vaccine series
- Waning immunity following vaccination
- Reduced protection against variant(s) of concern

On 18th October 2021, NIAC recommended an additional mRNA booster dose for those aged 60 to 79 years; vaccination of this group commenced w/c 1st November 2021. As with all other eligible cohorts, all channels are open for booster vaccinations including participating GPs, pharmacies and some walk-in vaccination clinics. Further information can be found on the HSE website.

To date c.327k booster doses have been administered to those aged 70-79 years, representing 95.7% of the total eligible population. In the cohort of those aged 80 and over c.170k booster doses have been administered, representing 96% of the total eligible population.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Damien McCallion
National Director
National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme