



19 July 2024

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy John Paul Phelan

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

**Re: PQ29170 - To ask the Minister for Health to provide the most recent data on the national vaccination coverage rate for adults eligible to receive the pneumococcal vaccine through the national immunisation programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - John Paul Phelan**

Dear Deputy Phelan

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response. We have liaised with our colleagues in Health Protection.

Currently the National Immunisation Advisory Committee recommend:

([https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO\\_ea065f0c-9732-41b8-a643-270b86f579b3/](https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_ea065f0c-9732-41b8-a643-270b86f579b3/))

- One dose of PPV23 for all aged 65 years and older and for those with medium risk (chronic heart, lung, liver disease, diabetes, Down syndrome, occupational exposure to metal fumes (i.e. welders), people who smoke and people who suffer from alcohol dependency).
- One dose of PCV and PPV23 for those with high risk of invasive pneumococcal disease: asplenia, hyposplenia, cancer patients, chronic renal disease or nephrotic syndrome, cochlear implant candidates and recipients, complement deficiency, CSF leaks, haematopoietic stem-cell and solid organ transplants, immunosuppressive conditions and those receiving immunosuppressive therapies or corticosteroids, intracranial shunt.

Vaccine uptake for PPV23 and PCV is not routinely monitored by age or risk categories in adults. Currently there is no vaccine registry in Ireland for adults and there is no mechanism in place to monitor vaccine uptake. The HSE is currently engaging on a new National Immunisation Information System which will assist in the capture and reporting of such data into the future.

In addition, there is no population denominator available for those who are at risk of invasive pneumococcal disease as administration is based on physician assessment in line with NIAC advise as per above link.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Cuddihy

National Director of Public Health

MCRN: 16227