



National COVID-19 Operations

Health Service Executive

Dr Steevens' Hospital, Steevens' Lane,
Dublin 8, D08 W2A8

22nd July 2024

Ms Neasa Hourigan, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 27414/24 To ask the Minister for Health the steps taken by the HSE to ensure long-Covid and immunocompromised patients can access Covid-19 booster vaccines, in particular a vaccine (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details Supplied: Novavax (Nuvaxovid)

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

Thank you for raising the above query which has been directed to this office for response and I apologise for the delay in responding.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC), provides evidence-based advice to the Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Health to inform policies on vaccines and immunisation in Ireland. The HSE is then responsible for operationalising immunisation programmes based on the recommendations provided to the Department of Health by NIAC.

NIAC also provide a list of associated conditions which outline persons who fall under the categories of having a suboptimal response to vaccination which makes them eligible for a COVID-19 booster.

NIAC recommended a Spring booster which the HSE commenced on 22nd of April 2024 and concluded on 16th June 2024. NIAC recommends a 2024 Winter booster programme which the HSE will communicate prior to commencement.

Novavax COVID-19 vaccine was available from HSE vaccination teams for the Winter 2023 and Spring 2024 campaigns for those who were eligible to receive a booster vaccine and could not or did not want to receive an mRNA vaccine. It will be available again for the Winter 2024 campaign, and those who wish to avail of Novavax can request an appointment from October 2024 onwards, by contacting HSE live on 1800 700 700 and a member of the team will arrange.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sabrina Byrne'.

Sabrina Byrne | General Manager | Covid-19 Operations