



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 Cliniúil
Ospidéal Dr Steevens|Lána Steevens|Baile Átha Cliath 8|D08 W2A8

By Email Only

Date: May 28th, 2021

To: Healthcare Worker Unions

Re: Vaccination programme and second dose of Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca vaccine)

Dear Colleague,

As you are aware, vaccine supplies have increased in recent weeks and as a result the programme has gained significant momentum. We continue to administer vaccines as quickly as possible once they arrive into the country. While strictly adhering to the government's provisional allocation sequencing, we are now administering over 250,000 vaccinations per week. As a result of the vaccination programme we have seen a collapse in case numbers, serious illness and deaths in vaccinated population groups, including our frontline healthcare workers. I am writing to confirm our operational plans in relation to Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca vaccine).

In accordance with the National Immunisation Advisory Committee guidance received on April 27th, 2021, we are now administering second doses of Vaxzevria, 12 weeks after the first dose for all age groups. We continue to recommend that healthcare workers take the second dose Vaxzevria as offered to them in order to protect them, our patients and the population at large. Good and timely uptake of the second dose of Vaxzevria will be crucial to ensuring that we continue to provide the maximum protection available to our at-risk population groups, which include our frontline healthcare workers at highest risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection.

We are aware that the NIAC monitors new evidence as it emerges and will continue to provide ongoing guidance based on the available evidence on all aspects of vaccination to ensure the vaccination programme remains safe, effective and evidence based.

Kind regards

Dr Colm Henry
Chief Clinical Officer