

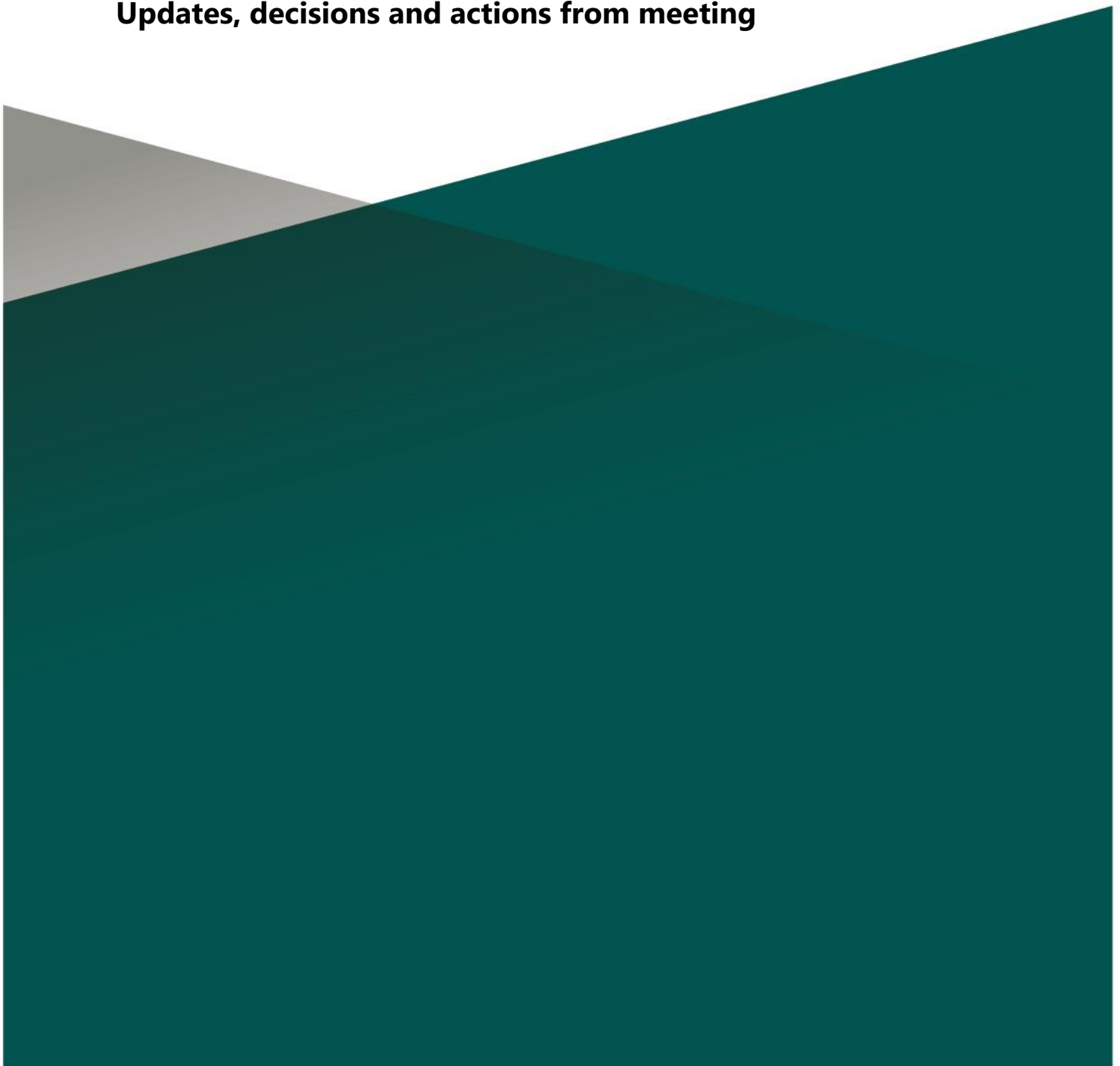


Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

## 4th January 2021 Meeting

**Updates, decisions and actions from meeting**



## High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

**Monday 4th January 2021 14:00**

Updates, decisions and actions arising from meeting

### 1. Attendees

<b>A. Members in attendance</b>	<b>B. Additional attendees in support</b>
Prof Brian MacCraith, Task Force Chair	<i>i. Task Force Secretariat</i>
Prof Karina Butler, Chair, NIAC	Kate Waterhouse, Task Force Secretariat
Liz Canavan, Chair, Senior Officials Group on COVID-19	<i>ii. In Attendance</i>
Fergal Goodman, Assistant Secretary, Health Protection Division, DOH	Sean Bresnan, National Director of Procurement, HSE
Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE	Dr Lorraine Doherty, Clinical Director Health Protection, HSE
Dr Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, DOH	Dr Ronan Glynn, Deputy CMO, DOH
Rachel Kenna, Chief Nursing Officer, DOH	Gerry O'Brien, Director, Health Protection, DOH
Barry Lowry, Chief Information Officer, OGCIO	Deirdre Watters, Head of Communications, DOH
Derek McCormack, Expert on Cold Chain Logistics	Dr Lucy Jessop, SRO WS2, Director, NIO, HSE
Dermot Mulligan, Assistant Secretary, Innovation and Investment Division, DETE	David Walsh, SRO WS4
Lorraine Nolan, Chief Executive, HPRA	Dr John Cuddihy, SRO WS5
Dr Nuala O'Connor, ICGP GP Clinical lead COVID-19	Fran Thompson, SRO WS6
Dalton Philips, Chief Executive Officer, DAA	<i>iii. Programme support</i>
Paul Quinn, Government CPO and CEO, OGP	Michael McDaid (PWC), Programme Office
Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer, HSE	Yvonne Mowlds (PWC), Programme Office
Martin Shanahan, Chief Executive Officer, IDA	
Derek Tierney, Programme Director	

## 2. Updates, decisions and approvals by Task Force

At the meeting, the Task Force:

- Welcomed a new member, Dr. Nuala O'Connor of the ICGP, to the Task Force.
- Noted that rollout of the vaccine programme started safely on 29 December.
- Reviewed an update on actions, noting completion of two actions (submission of updated Implementation Plan to Government on 28 December; preparation of FAQ booklet by HSE/NIO), and progress on advancing the process in relation to the role of GPs/pharmacists in the vaccination programme (HSE/DOH).
- Agreed that communications would be a standing item on the agenda going forward, and noted that a daily political briefing has been established, as well as ongoing integration of communications across DOH and the HSE. It was agreed that the daily briefing note will be shared with HLTF meeting participants.
- Heard an update on the vaccination programme, which included receipt of an additional 31,200 doses on 28 December, 'go live' of the IT system, ongoing training for vaccinators, administration of first vaccines, and the appointment of David Leach as joint-SRO for the Workstream on Communications & Public Campaigns.
- Discussed the scope of work starting 4 January 2021, including commencement of roll-out to Cohort 1 in LTCF, scaling up of programme to 30,000+ doses with a final target to be decided later this week, outreach to community-based healthcare workers, continuation of vaccinator training, and go live of registration and scheduling portal.
- Noted that increased functionality will be built into the IT system over time, and that data will be uploaded to the MVP.
- Noted good progress on the programme overall, which is now in the operational stage, with green status for w/c 4 January, and reviewed status updates on all workstreams; including streamlining of reporting under WS1, scenario planning and distribution models under WS2, doses per vial under WS3, rapidly evolving workforce matters under WS4, and manual workarounds (paper data capture) and contingencies under WS6. It was agreed that an Initial draft of the overall roadmap to the end of the vaccination programme will be produced for next week to further guide planning and reporting.
- Discussed forward planning and scenarios and agreed that from next week, the HLTF will be considering short-, medium- and long-term planning, moving from the current focus of the first 8 weeks. It was noted that work is ongoing on modelling, which will be shared in later meetings.
- Reviewed the vaccination schedules for acute hospitals and LTCFs and discussed implications of potential outbreaks for planning.
- Discussed the matter of consent, and noted an update on the 2-page consent forms that have been produced.
- Heard an update from NIAC on the advice to issue to DOH on the use of a 6th dose and the interval between doses. Noted the expectation of an early Moderna authorisation as well as the lack of certainty on a delivery schedule of the vaccine; also noted that the EU has not received a formal application for authorisation of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine.
- Reviewed the current decision to withhold 50% of stock for second doses on the basis of scenario modelling, and discussed alternative scenarios where one week's

worth of stock, and no stock, would be withheld, focussing on supply, vaccine administration and workforce, as well as the prioritisation cohorts, and it was noted that clarification was awaited on the final numbers of frontline healthcare workers. The model which Involves holding back one week's worth of stock as a buffer received strong endorsement.

- Agreed to continue meeting weekly, and that the next meeting will take place on Monday 11 January at 2pm.

#### **New actions agreed by Task Force – 21st December**

<b>#</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>
<b>1</b>	Daily briefing note on COVID-19 will be shared with all HLTF meeting participants.	Prof Brian MacCraith; Liz Canavan
<b>2</b>	A draft roadmap for the full vaccination programme will be produced for the next meeting.	Derek Tierney
<b>3</b>	NIAC to provide DOH with advice on 6th dose in a vial and on the interval between doses.	Prof Karina Butler