



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

8 February 2021 Meeting

Updates, decisions and actions from meeting

High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

Monday 8 February 2021 14:00

Updates, decisions and actions arising from meeting

1. Attendees

A. Members in attendance	B. Additional attendees in support
Prof Brian MacCraith, Task Force Chair	<i>ii. In Attendance</i>
Liz Canavan, Chair, SOG on COVID-19	Sean Bresnan, National Director of Procurement, HSE
Fergal Goodman, Assistant Secretary, Health Protection Division, DOH	Dr Ronan Glynn, Deputy CMO, DOH
Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE	Deirdre Watters, Head of Communications, DOH
Rachel Kenna, Chief Nursing Officer, DOH	Elizabeth Headon, Programme Communications
Barry Lowry, Chief Information Officer, OGCIO	Dr Lucy Jessop, SRO WS2, Director, NIO, HSE
Derek McCormack, Expert on Cold Chain Logistics	Paul Flanagan, SRO WS3
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	Fran Thompson, SRO WS6
Dalton Philips, Chief Executive Officer, DAA	David Leach, SRO WS7
Paul Quinn, Government CPO and CEO, OGP	Andrew Byrne, Immunisation and Infectious Diseases Policy, DOH
Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer, HSE	Deirdre McNamara, General Manager, Quality & Patient Safety, Acute Hospitals Division, HSE
Martin Shanahan, Chief Executive Officer, IDA	Minister Stephen Donnelly, Minister for Health
Derek Tierney, Programme Director	<i>iii. In partial attendance</i>
Additional attendees in support	Frances McNamara, Senior Operations and Corporate, HSE
<i>i. Task Force Secretariat</i>	<i>iv. Programme support</i>
Kate Waterhouse, Task Force Secretariat	Yvonne Mowlds (PWC), Programme Office

Apologies: Prof Karina Butler, Chair, NIAC

2. Updates, decisions and approvals by Task Force

At the meeting, the Task Force:

- Welcomed Paul Flanagan, Department of Health, as new SRO for Workstream 3.
- Considered the TF's role in providing ongoing strategic contributions to the vaccination programme, and noted that from today there will be a regular section on looking ahead to consider near- and medium-term issues.
- Reviewed an update on actions from the previous two meetings, four of which are completed (NIAC advice on AstraZeneca vaccine finalised, issued and considered; new Logistics Operational Management Unit mobilised; update on vaccination programme provided to Taoiseach and Minister for Health; updated vaccination figures circulated); a fifth action was on the agenda for today (Updates on WS 5) and there is good progress on remaining actions involving operating models for revised plans to vaccinate cohort 3; additional recruitment needs for upscaling of vaccination centres; and policy considerations/assessment tools for sub-prioritisation of cohorts.
- Heard a communications update, noting that: the HSE Public Information Campaign has gone live with positive feedback; messaging for over-85s will commence on Wednesday; the HSE's first partner meeting with representative bodies for older people has taken place; eagerness for the vaccine continues to rise; and research shows the top priority for the public is fairness of the vaccination programme (those who need it most get it first). The TF heard an update on news events, with the main focus on AstraZeneca and implications for the programme, while regular political briefings continue.
- Heard an update on the vaccination programme, noting that: 219,200 people had received vaccines to 3 February; the first delivery of 21,600 of AZ vaccines arrived; adjustments have been made quickly to the programme in light of AZ policy decisions, including the new GP model and IT solutions for revised roll-out plans; the Logistics Hub was mobilised as of this morning allowing greater control as the complexities of supply increase, with detailed work and engagement ongoing to ensure that the highest standards continue to be met as operations change and grow.
- Discussed upcoming planned activity for w/c 8.2.21, including administration of 29,000 doses across the three vaccines/cohorts while allowing for replenishment of Pfizer buffer stock; and the plan for daily data to go live on GeoHIVE this afternoon, with a 48-hour lag to allow data validation and with work underway to expand the data available. The TF also discussed monitoring overall take-up of the vaccine.
- Discussed recent decisions on AZ vaccine and responses thereto, notably the new approach to GP delivery, with roll-out to Cohort 3 to start as planned on 15 February, roll-out of AZ to cohort 2 to start this afternoon with an indicative schedule of finalising first doses the first week in March, and continued roll-out to cohort 1 using mRNA vaccines. The TF discussed implications and modelling for the scheduling of all

cohorts and noted outstanding regulatory and policy considerations, including on defining and sub-prioritising later cohorts. It was noted that work is continuing on plans to vaccinate those with mobility issues

- Reviewed a programme status report for the ramp-up phase, noting the ongoing live risks and challenges, in particular in relation to supply, and noted good progress on each of the workstreams. Noted updates to the indicative operational scorecard.
- Reviewed a presentation on scaling up of locally recruited and centralised workforce, to address workforce needs across vaccination centres; competing demands on workforce; proposed plans for recruitment; development of certain roles and pay-scales; identification/investigation of potential workforce pool, including engagement with offers of support; key principles for recruitment; design and development of training; legislative developments and updates on other deliverables.
- Heard a presentation on WS 5: Surveillance, Monitoring and Reporting, detailing how vaccine uptake data are reported (frequency, report type, reporter); and how vaccine effectiveness is monitored; and noted that work is underway to link both systems.
- Discussed near-term issues (<3 weeks), which include distribution and plans to model and confirm capacity for ramp-up and peak supply, testing readiness in advance of being needed; matters for decision on vaccine characteristics and approval, including guidance on AZ dose interval; work to be done on confirmation of cohort size, definition and sub-prioritisation; and arrangements to be confirmed for the vaccine administration model. Medium-term issues (3-6 weeks) include the need for policy decisions on sub-prioritisation of later cohorts, and preparation for future vaccines.
- Was addressed (at the end of the meeting) by the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, who acknowledged the work done to date, and discussed roll-out for cohorts 4-7, and workforce supply and demand.
- Agreed that the next meeting will take place on Monday, 15 February at 2pm.

New actions agreed by Task Force – 8 February

#	Action	Owner
1	Stock management principles to be confirmed for Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca	Dr Colm Henry, Sean Bresnan, Dr. Lucy Jessop
2	Confirm guidance on AZ dose interval for fHCW	Dr Colm Henry
3	Workstream 2 & HPRA to review mRNA distribution model to GPs.	Sean Bresnan, Dr. Lucy Jessop
4	Develop communications approach for cohorts in light of particular population consent behaviours	Elizabeth Headon

5	Determine extent & agree vaccination approach for immobile ≥ 70 s.	Dr. Colm Henry, Pat Healy
6	Approval of Vaccinator role & pay scale	DOH (Fergal Goodman, Paul Flanagan)
7	Widen legal basis for vaccinator role (SI in progress)	DOH (Fergal Goodman, Paul Flanagan)
8	HSE to confirm workforce requirements and support required from wider system (including volunteers).	David Walsh, Frances McNamara