

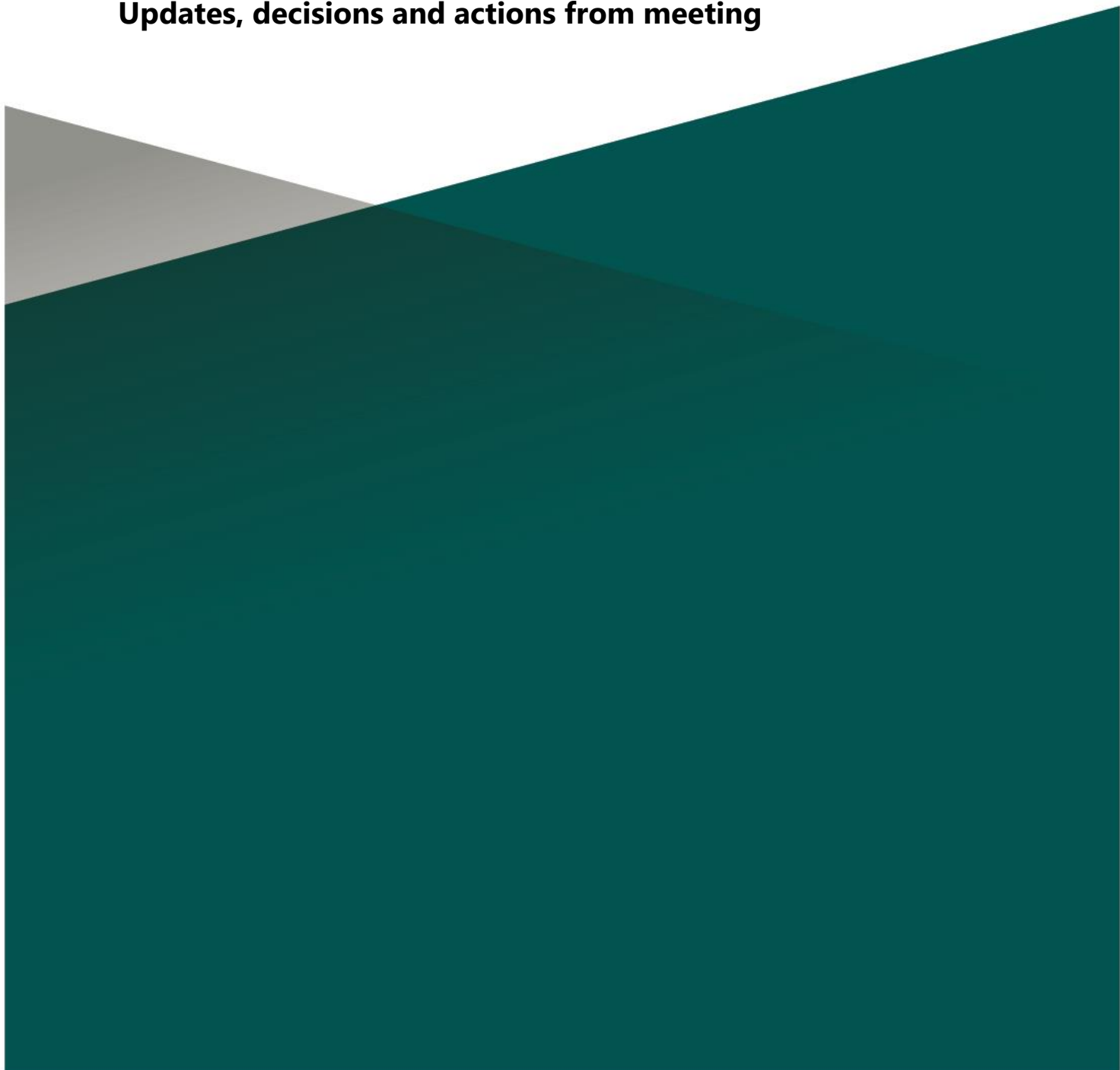


Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

15 February 2021 Meeting

Updates, decisions and actions from meeting



High Level Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccination

Monday 15 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>
Prof Karina Butler, Chair, NIAC	Sean Bresnan, National Director of Procurement, HSE
Liz Canavan, Chair, SOG on COVID-19	Dr Lorraine Doherty, Clinical Director Health Protection, 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, OGCI	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	Dr John Cuddihy, SRO WS5
Lorraine Nolan, Chief Executive, HPRA	Fran Thompson, SRO WS6
Dr Nuala O'Connor, ICGP	David Leach, SRO WS7
Dalton Philips, Chief Executive Officer, DAA	Andrew Byrne, Immunisation and Infectious Diseases Policy Unit, DOH
Paul Quinn, Government CPO and CEO, OGP	Siobhan McArdle, Assistant National Director, Community Operations, HSE
Paul Reid, Chief Executive Officer, HSE	Deirdre McNamara, General Manager, Quality & Patient Safety, Acute Hospitals Division, HSE
Martin Shanahan, Chief Executive Officer, IDA	<i>iii. In partial attendance</i>
Derek Tierney, Programme Director	Frances McNamara, Senior Operations and Corporate, HSE
Additional attendees in support	<i>iv. Programme support</i>
<i>i. Task Force Secretariat</i>	Yvonne Mowlds (PWC), Programme Office
Kate Waterhouse, Task Force Secretariat	Michael McDaid (PWC), Programme Office

Apologies: David Walsh, SRO WS4

2. Updates, decisions and approvals by Task Force

At the meeting, the Task Force:

- Noted that the vaccination programme is now in a transition phase, having gone from ca. 45,000 vaccinations a week to an expectation of over 80,000 this week. It was noted that the next phase will need early action on the quantification of cohorts, definition of sub-cohorts and work on the programme's workforce.
- Reviewed an update on open actions, noting completion of four further actions: finalisation of operating models for revised plans for Cohort 3 (≥ 70 s); confirmation of stock management principles for the three vaccines; confirmation of guidance on AZ dose interval for fHCWs; and approval of vaccinator role & pay scale.
Good progress was noted on the remaining six actions:
 - vaccination approach for immobile ≥ 70 s should be finalized shortly;
 - work on cohort sub-prioritisation should be finalized this week;
 - detailed work ongoing on the mRNA vaccine distribution model to GPs;
 - work on a communications approach in light of varying consent behaviours across cohorts;
 - widening the legal basis for the vaccinator role (SI in progress) requires further interaction between the DOH and the HSE; and
 - HSE confirmation of workforce/support requirements (including volunteers).
- Heard a communications update, including on the public information campaign (HSE campaign live; regional press ads this week; new TV ads from 22 Feb; daily data live on COVID-19 Data Hub; updates on gov.ie; playlist of vaccine Q&A videos on Youtube; HSE working with Twitter to promote official information on vaccines; and meeting with stakeholder organisations on roll-out to the over-70s); news events (including much interest in details of vaccination centres; roll out to ≥ 70 s through GPs; administration of first AZ vaccines; EU and WHO updates; new data from Israel; and discussion of healthcare workers/medics refusing vaccination), and ongoing political briefing. Increasing availability of public information may be reducing numbers of public and media queries.
- Heard an update on the vaccination programme for w/e 14 February, noting very significant milestones and progress achieved, including administration of 261,073 doses to 11 Feb; announcement of 37 vaccination centre locations; finalisation of GP operating model; great progress made on the Logistics Hub, with confidence that there will be capacity to meet demand at peak supply levels; positive feedback on the pop-up vaccination clinics of 13/14 Feb for GPs/GP practice teams; vaccination of fHCWs successfully switched to AZ; registration portal for fHCWs opened on 9 Feb with over 30,000 staff registered; and some further clarity received on AZ supply forecasts. It was also noted that HSE guidance issues to GPs today on application of the allocation strategy to any 'surplus' vaccines.
- Discussed upcoming planned activity for w/c 15.2.21, including administration of min. 79,500 vaccine doses; continued constructing/fitting out of vaccination centres; commencement of roll-out to cohort 3 (≥ 85 years first); workshop tomorrow for key

SROs to further develop integrated programme for next phases (1 Mar), focussing on policy decisions, logistics, workforce & VALs; and continued use of Programme Planning Roadmap (PPR), which is working very well in integrating common assumptions across the programme and forecasting next phases.

- Reviewed a programme status report for the ramp-up phase, noting that the same key risks and challenges remain, and reviewed progress on workstreams, noting the central role of the PPR to WS1; ongoing solution design and engagement with manufacturers and UD under WS2; agreement on vaccination role and ongoing progress with SI on vaccinator professionals under WS3.
- Reviewed a presentation on WS4: Vaccine Process & Workforce, with updates on local, national and agency recruitment development, on existing and new training programmes (full suite to be available 1 March), and on outstanding issues and assumptions, including criticality of IT and cohort definitions to readiness. It was noted that all matters would be subject to detailed and integrated discussion at tomorrow's SRO workshop, and it was agreed that an update will be shared next week. It was also agreed that workforce planning assumptions will be shared at local level ASAP, with a point person in each HSE and Local Authority area to liaise. It was further noted that regular updates will be available by area from the HSE's national campaign partner once the recruitment campaign launches this week.
- Heard a presentation with updates on WS6: Enabling Technology & Information, which detailed the workstream sprint plan to end March, showing a broad picture of the features that will be improved on as the programme continues; the successful GP update and ongoing integration work; and ongoing work on data quality.
- Discussed near-term issues (<3 weeks), including confirmation of: distribution model and ongoing work to ensure sufficient capacity when needed; allocation policy for minority/vulnerable groups; role of pharmacists in programme; workforce supply and demand; approach for immobile patients ≥ 70 s; validated and verified cohort population sizes; and vaccinators and vaccine type for cohort 5.
- Discussed medium-term issues (3-6 weeks), which include considering virus variants and impact on strategy, with initial modelling on transmission expected this week; inter-cohort allocation sequencing policy and rules around moving from one cohort to another; and medium-term allocation sequencing policy (cohorts 6-9).
- Noted updates to the indicative operational scorecard and the ongoing efficiency of administration in relation to supply: the data shows that supply received is being administered in a fraction of week, taking buffer stock principles into account. An updated forecast for AZ was also considered, as well as the proximity of the final Q1 deliveries of all three vaccines to 31 March.
- Noted, in summary, that the focus continues to be on workforce, VALs and scaling up of operations, as well as ongoing work on enabling technology and reporting.

- Agreed that the next meeting will take place on Monday, 22 February at 2pm.

New actions agreed by Task Force – 15 February

#	Action	Owner
1	Finalise HSE paper on clinical governance for vaccination centres.	Dr Colm Henry, Siobhan McArdle
2	Confirm role of pharmacists in programme	Dr Colm Henry
3	Validate and verify cohort population sizes	DoH: Fergal Goodman, Paul Flanagan