Vaccine Programme Report

NPHEt Update

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1. Executive Summary

- The milestone of 600,000 vaccines administered was reached on Friday 12th March. 689,581 vaccines administered to the 22\textsuperscript{nd} March; a total of 503,147 people have now received the first dose of their vaccine.

- Recomencement of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccinations for the new high risk group and FHCW on Saturday 20th March with a continued ramp up in vaccinations of these groups this week. Over 15,500 AstraZenca vaccines have been administered in the first three days of week commencing 22\textsuperscript{nd} March.

- Vaccination of does 1 for our Front Line Health Care Workers (FCHW) is substantially complete with 218,989 dose 1 vaccines administered to the 22nd March. The portal for FHCW will be closed this week but any remaining front line health care workers will be vaccinated.

- We continue to identify the new cohorts of very high risk and high risk patients but these are proving very challenging to identify in the absence of national disease registries. It is currently estimated to be between 200,000-230,000 people. We expect it will take April to get all the very high risk patients vaccinated.

- Vaccination of the very high risk cohort commenced in March in our hospitals and it is anticipated that the vaccination of this very high risk group will be completed for dose one early in May. In parallel, with the vaccination of the very high risk cohort, work is ongoing to identify the larger cohort of high risk patients, whose vaccination will commence in May following completion of the high risk cohort.

- In addition during April it is intended to commence the cohorts for those aged 65-69 and to the non-front line health care workers. Plans for these groups will be finalised over the next week.

- Over 195K vaccines have been administered by GPs to over 70s as at 22nd March. We are continuing to administer vaccines to housebound patients through NAS and over 70s in the Hospital setting.

- Vaccination Centre’s are being used where required with 13 centres now operational as needed. Current cohorts have a greater focus on GP and Hospital based delivery and this will continue into April. Other VCs will be ready for operations during April in preparation for greater utilization in May and beyond.
2. Cumulative vaccines administered to 22\textsuperscript{nd} March

- 689,581 vaccines cumulatively administered to 22\textsuperscript{nd} March (503,147 dose 1 and 186,434 dose 2);
  - Cohort 1 dose 1s substantially completed. Cumulative positions as at 22\textsuperscript{nd} March is total 185,158 (107,573 dose 1 and 77,585 dose 2);
  - FHCW expected to be substantially completed dose 1 by end of March. Cumulative positions as at 22\textsuperscript{nd} March are 299,878 (206,972 dose 1 and 92,906 dose 2);
  - Over 195,000 doses administered to over 70s by GPs to 22\textsuperscript{nd} March. Substantially complete over 80s this week. Cumulative position as at 22\textsuperscript{nd} March is 1095,319 (179,453 dose 1 and 15,866 dose 2); and
  - Cohort 4 commenced in the week of 15th March with 8,687 completed up to the 22\textsuperscript{nd} March.

3. Last Week (15th March)

- 61,188* doses administered in the week beginning 15th March. This was ahead of the target for the week of 50,000 (This is after the exclusion of AZ due to the pause of the programme for Cohort 2 and 4). This is split by Cohort as follows:
  - Cohort 1 (LTCF) planned to administer 5,750 in the week of the 15th March with actually administering 3,971.
  - Cohort 2 (FHCW) planned to administer1,500 the week of 15th March and actually exceeded this by administering 3,928 to FHCW.
  - Continued rollout to Cohort 3 (70 years and older) with 51,078 completed, exceeding the plan roll-out for the week of 45,000.
  - Cohort 4,2,184 administered, with plan suspended due to AZ issues.

*includes non-coded of 27

4. Current Week (22\textsuperscript{nd} March)

- The plan for the week beginning 22\textsuperscript{nd} March was to administer between 75,000 to 80,000 Pfizer and Moderna to Cohort 1, 2 and 3. The plan originally did not include any arrangements for AZ vaccine as it was paused. AZ has been stepped up this week with over 25,000 delivered to hospital groups to recommence vaccination of Cohort 2 and 4.

- As of Tuesday 23th March 27,845 vaccines administered this week, which includes over 10,000 AZ administered o Cohort 2 and 4.

- Over 70s vaccination in hospitals and housebound has commenced and is expected to be complete in line with the overall target for Cohort 3.
5. GP rollout update

- Over 179,000 first doses have been administered by GPs to over 70s by 22nd March. As of the 22nd March, we have administered over 15,000 second doses to over 70s. We are continuing to administer vaccines to housebound patients through NAS and over 70s in the Hospital setting.

- A number of measures are in place to support distribution of vaccine to GPs. A dedicated GP support team is in place to streamline distribution and simplify the ordering system, linking with GP’s and their practice staff to quickly resolve snags and issues that arise. There is also a dedicated email and support line are now in place.

- Vaccine allocation remains limited by supply which does mean that practices may not be able to complete an age grouping from one delivery. This presents challenges for GP practices. Supply is distributed on an equitable basis across practices. The aim is to have administered dose one for the substantial majority of GP practices by mid April.

6. National Vaccination system (COVAX)

- A vaccination portal for healthcare workers to register for their vaccine has been live for some time and is currently being configured for rollout to the general public. The core functionality exists to register to receive the vaccine and to record the administration of doses 1 and 2. This has worked well for frontline healthcare workers.

- Public portal development and scheduling tool are being finalised. These will be initially deployed for the 65-69 age group.

- A web based data capture tool to be deployed in pharmacies is progressing as planned and due for completion at the end March. We are progressing with the IT connectivity and developing operational arrangements with the sector so that we can consider when the pharmacists can best enter the programme.

- Other developments currently close to implementation include GP system integration directly into COVAX to enable automatic loading of results. HSE currently monitor this activity through PCRS.

- Work is progressing on development of vaccine certificates, including integration into DoH and HSE infrastructure. There is a dependency on direction from ECDC / EU with respect to finalising definition of functionality.

7. Impact of Vaccination programme

The Health Protection surveillance Centre (HPSC) monitors the effectiveness of the vaccine programme. Clearly this is still at an early stage and hence the attached provides an initial perspective.

- The HSE monitors up to 2,000 Long Term Residential Facilities. Older Persons facilities represent over 570 centres
including Private Nursing Homes) and the remainder are largely in Disability and Mental Health services. Since the commencement of the roll-out of the vaccination programme, there has been dramatic reduction in the number of outbreaks in these facilities. The outbreak in nursing homes and community hospitals/long stay units from the beginning of the pandemic to midnight 20th March 2021 are outlined below:

- The levels of deaths in this case setting has significantly declined since the establishment of the vaccine roll-out programme. See below the deaths among confirmed COVID-19 cases linked to outbreaks in Nursing Home and Community Hospital/Long Stay Units in the period from November 22nd 2020 to midnight March 20th 2021.

- As of the week 15th March, we had only been notified of two new Nursing Home and no new Community Hospital/Long-stay Unit with Covid outbreaks. This is material down since the number of outbreaks in January 2021. In total there were 632 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospital/Long Stay Units in the period up.
Similarly, the level of disease in health care workers has declined significantly over the last number of weeks. The number of cases in healthcare workers from the beginning of the pandemic to midnight 20th March 2021 are outlined below: