



**16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2021**

Minister Stephen Donnelly,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

*Issued via email to: [stephen.donnelly@oireachtas.ie](mailto:stephen.donnelly@oireachtas.ie)*

**Rep Number: REPDR-21-08265**

Dear Minister Donnelly,

I refer to the above Representation regarding the booster vaccination for Community First Responders (CFRs).

The HSE operationalised the Covid-19 booster programme in line with NIAC guidance commencing with Healthcare Workers (HCW) and vulnerable groups such as residents in Long Term Residential Care Facilities and immunocompromised individuals. As the status of many individuals would have changed since their primary vaccination e.g. not previously a Healthcare Worker or not previously a resident of a Long Term Residential Care Facility the HSE put in place many additional pathways for these individuals in order that they could access Covid-19 booster at the earliest opportunity.

It was previously agreed that CFRs would be treated as HCWs. With regard to the query from the first responders, individuals who were registered as HCWs for their primary vaccination will have a vaccination record that outlines their HCW status, therefore these individuals will access their booster via a scheduled appointment per SMS or by presenting at a walk-in clinic. However new CFRs or CFRs who may not have been recorded as HCWs for their primary vaccination must have their vaccination record updated to reflect this in order to receive their booster as a HCW.

The following outlines the enrolment pathway for all new HCWs, including students on clinical placements, irrespective of their duties as a HCW employee. All HCWs are required to bring proof of employment to their booster vaccination appointment. Proof of employment accepted:

- Staff ID
- Letter from employer / manager or
- Letter from Education Facility confirming clinical placement details

**Process for New HCWs for scheduled appointment:**

- Once the appropriate interval has passed since the primary vaccination course a new HCW contacts HSELive (1800 700 700) for their Covax record to be updated advising of their role as a HCW
- HSE Live updates the individuals record to HCW

- New HCW is advised that they will receive an appointment for a booster vaccination once eligible under NIAC guidance and that they will be required to provide proof of employment as a HCW upon check in at the Vaccination Centre
- New HCW attends their appointment at the vaccination centre and provides proof of employment as a HCW on check in

**Process for New HCWs for walk-in clinic:**

- New HCW attends the walk-in vaccination centre and provides proof of employment as a HCW upon check in

This will ensure that all CFRs are vaccinated as we recognise the great role they play in society.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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**Damien McCallion**  
**National Director**  
**National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme**