

## Robert Glennon

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**From:** Karina Butler <karina.butleroconnell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday 17 December 2020 18:03  
**To:** Ronan Glynn; Tony Holohan; cmo@health.gov.ie  
**Cc:** Rachel MacDonell; NIAC; NIAC  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent NIAC advice

Dear Drs Holohan and Glynn

Apologies my last email was rushed as I had an urgent deadline to meet elsewhere but wished to alert you to some NIAC concerns

The context: we convened an emergency meeting of the NIAC COVID group following mention that you wished some advice in themes of the initial rollout. This coincided with press report of possible serious adverse reactions in two Pfizer vaccine recipients in the US.

We are given to understand that Planning for the initial phases within Long term residential units is far advanced with vaccinators being identified and trained. Concerns were raised regarding trying to do it in too many centres at once, however we appreciate that considerable planning and efforts have gone in to making sure it is well planned. A further matter of more immediate concern is the report of possible serious adverse reactions in recipients. While the two reactions in the UK appear to be credible, our knowledge of two reports in the US is based only on media reports. I understand that there is some scepticism within the allergy community as to whether these represent true serious reactions. Further investigation will no doubt clarify the issue. We await the EMA documentation which I believe may be available on Monday. It may shed further light on matters regarding recommendations.

However, in the interim there appears to be significant urgency to make some recommendations as sites are being contacted with regard to initiating vaccination. Thus as interim precautionary recommendations NIAC recommends:-  
Consideration should be given to delivering the initial vaccinations in a site with onsite medical facilities

Prolonging the period of observation to 30 mins

Consider deferral of vaccination for those with previous history of severe adverse reaction to an injected medication or vaccination until more data are available.

We reiterate that food allergy is not a contraindication

Yours Sincerely

Karina Butler

Chair NIAC

> On 17 Dec 2020, at 16:53, Karina Butler <karina.butleroconnell@gmail.com> wrote:

>> Dear Dr Holohan and Glynn

> We convened an emergency meeting of the NIAC COVID subgroup today. We are concerned at the reports of serious allergic reactions following vaccination with the Pfizer vaccine emanating from the UK and the US. Following discussion it is the recommendation of NIAC, pending further investigation, that the initial vaccinations should only be carried out in a site with onsite medical facilities.

>> Post vaccination observation should be extended to a minimum of 30 mins.

>> For the moment we are not recommending that persons who have had a serious anaphylactoid reaction to previous medication or vaccination, be vaccinated. This recommendation may change depending on emerging evidence.

> Food allergy and asthma are not contraindications.

>> Sincerely

> Karina Butler

> Chair NIAC

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