

National Immunisation Advisory Committee

Minutes of meeting	
Full NIAC meeting	Date: 18.00, 25.01.2021 Venue: Zoom

<p>Members in attendance NIAC – K Butler, R MacDonell, K Connolly, B Corcoran, C Maguire, A Hughes, C Keane, P O’Reilly, M Nolan, C Murphy, A Clarke, A Weidenhammer, L Jessop, R Fitzgerald, E Moylett, M Ward, B Cleary, C McDonnell HPRA – D O’Connor, S Curran HSE – K Kelleher DOH – C Bonner</p>	<p>Apologies C De Gascun C Sadlier N Bambury</p>
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	It was agreed:	Action No.
1	<p>Introductions New lay members introduced and welcomed</p>	
2	<p>Minutes Minutes from November 2020 accepted</p>	
3	<p>Statement of Interests Nil declared to agenda items today Annual COI forms for submission by 29.01.2021</p>	
4	<p>TOR Draft TOR discussed. Awaiting nomination from Institute of Medicine. TOR covers working groups.</p> <p>Membership update Members to send comments on TOR by 29.01.2021. Confidentiality form to be circulated and completed by members. Several member terms end this year – those members will be invited to stay on or if resigning, their organisation will be asked to nominate a representative.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p>
5	<p>Governance Department of Health (DOH) has asked the NIAC to provide business case for extra resources needed. Discussions ongoing regarding transition from the NIAC to a NITAG.</p>	

	It was agreed:	Action No.
6	<p>SARS-CoV-2 (Covid)</p> <p>Variants of concern COVID-19 variants discussed including: B.1.1.7/UK, South Africa and Brazil variants. UK variant increasingly seen in Ireland, and new reports suggest there may be some increased morbidity/mortality with this strain. South African strain found in small number of cases in Ireland. No P.1 (Brazil) strain found yet. No change to vaccine recommendations based on current information on new variants.</p> <p>Vaccination programme Vaccine rollout: over 75,000 healthcare workers have received one dose of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccination and most long-term care facilities have been visited. Small volume of Moderna vaccine distributed successfully through GP services.</p> <p>Chapter 5a To add Astra-Zeneca vaccine information once this is approved. Clarified that lymphadenopathy as a side effect to Pfizer/BioNTech related to local lymphadenopathy on side of body where vaccine given. To update allergy advice on chapter in view of potential cross-reactivity between polyethylene glycol (in both mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) and polysorbate 80. Allergy queries that arise to be referred first to National Immunisation Office (NIO). The FAQ on allergy related to COVID-19 vaccines published and will address many queries. Possibility of developing triage mechanism for potential referrals to allergy/immunology specialist to be explored so that vaccinations would not be unnecessarily delayed.</p> <p>Pregnancy FAQ for pregnancy in place and will be updated as information emerges. Discussed use of non-replicative viral vector vaccines in pregnancy – no current known reason not to use them but further studies being undertaken.</p> <p>Priority Groupings</p> <p>Next steps Prioritisation workstream Discussions ongoing within working group, including how to incorporate vulnerable groups. Open Safely Group (https://opensafely.org/) provides data on risk factors for COVID-19 (https://opensafely.org/assets/age_interactions_report_v1.2.pdf)</p> <p>Communications NIAC in media often, no concerns over media representation</p>	3
7	<p>Influenza Working Group lead confirmed</p>	

	It was agreed:	Action No.
	Recommendations for next year to be reviewed. NIAC recommendation for LAIV for 2-17-year olds to remain unchanged. “Recommend and offer” pilot suggested, where maternity hospital would be able to give influenza vaccinations, to improve uptake in pregnancy.	
8	BCG Working Group lead confirmed No update – to follow up with lead and progress report	5
9	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Most areas started school vaccinations this year. Some disruption due to COVID-19 with school closures and redeployment of staff. Aim to catch up on HPV vaccinations over the summer	
10	Primary immunisation schedule Work currently deferred. Working group lead confirmed	
11	Meningococcal Infection Work currently deferred. Working group lead confirmed	
12	Varicella Zoster Virus Work currently deferred. Working group lead confirmed	
13	Hepatitis B No update	
14	Chapter updates Efforts diverted to keep COVID-19 chapter updated. Small updates to Ch 2 and Ch 3 have been made for consistency across the chapters.	
15	Vaccine Injury Redress Scheme Verbal reassurance from DOH received that work in this regard is ongoing. Formal response to NIAC’s letter emphasizing the importance of this has not been received.	
16	Correspondence COVID-19 vaccine related correspondence primarily addresses prioritisation. Many submissions received and responded to. DOH requests 1. Advice on dose interval of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine 2. Advice re response to Norwegian press reports of deaths in frail elderly 3. Level of immunity post natural infection and whether vaccination might be deferred in that group (Received today 18/01/2021) NIAC responses 1. 2-dose schedule with second dose at 21-28 days	6

	It was agreed:	Action No.
	2. No change to vaccination program is currently warranted in frail elderly population, in line with SAGE recommendations 3. Response in preparation	
17	AOB - Suggestion to develop organogram for working groups and formalise status updates from working groups.	