Subject - Deep dissatisfaction regarding the lack of access and public awareness for non-mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Nuvaxovid) again this year.

Dear Dr. Henry,

We are writing to you again this year to formally express deep disappointment and profound dissatisfaction with the Health Service Executive's current lack of an approach to providing alternative, non-mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Yet again during a COVID wave (the 13th) we are asking why many are left waiting and isolating.

The HSE has repeatedly justified the lack of widespread availability of Nuvaxovid by claiming there is "low public demand." However, this assertion fundamentally ignores the fact that the HSE has done nothing to actively assess actual public demand, nor has it made the public, general practitioners, or pharmacists aware that an alternative vaccine technology exists. Demand cannot naturally manifest for a product that clinical staff and patients do not know is an option.

Furthermore, the logistical handling of this vaccine over the consecutive rollout cycles has been entirely unacceptable:

- Belated Access: Last year, those who proactively sought out Nuvaxovid and placed their names on the HSELive expression of interest list were forced to wait until just before Christmas to receive their doses, missing the peak of the autumn/winter respiratory viral wave and also with little protection over Xmas as it was administered the week before.
- Contradictory Logistical Claims: Patients currently on the HSELive list are once again being contacted by representatives stating that the executive is "trying to acquire the vaccine from America." This explanation is highly questionable and confusing and we still as a patient advocacy group are without answers, given that Sanofi, which handles the distribution of Nuvaxovid, maintains a fully operational corporate office right here in Ireland.

By failing to secure a predictable supply chain and failing to educate frontline healthcare workers on the availability of a protein-subunit alternative, the HSE appears to be actively restricting choice for those wishing to improve their protections and alienating a vulnerable cohort of patients.

Many immunocompromised individuals, or those who have experienced adverse reactions or hold specific clinical reservations regarding mRNA platforms, are being left entirely without vaccine protection during a critical period (we are currently in the 13th wave of COVID). To many it appears like the HSE has created unnecessary barriers to access. We would expect Public health policy to accommodate patient equity and clinical diversity, not suppress demand through perceived bureaucratic obscurity. We urge the HSE to urgently rectify this by:

1. Establishing a transparent, domestic procurement pathway with Sanofi Ireland to secure an adequate stock of updated Nuvaxovid doses.

2. Issuing clear guidance and clinical notifications to GPs and pharmacists nationwide so they are aware of how to order and administer this alternative for inquiring patients.
3. Proactively communicating the availability of non-mRNA options to society especially the vulnerable groups and many who are not being vaccinated because of concerns over alternatives and therefore remain under-vaccinated due to a lack of choice.

We look forward to your prompt response detailing the steps the HSE intends to take to resolve these procurement and communication failures, which leaves many vulnerable to infection due to the lack of access to a vital layer of protection through vaccination.

Kind Regards

Long Covid Advocacy Ireland