HSC Health and Social Care Board

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FOR ATTENTION OF ALL OPTOMETRY CONTRACTORS & FOR ONWARD DISTRIBUTION TO ALL STAFF

7th January 2021

Dear Colleague

COVID-19 Vaccination of Community Optometry Practice Staff.

I am writing to advise that preparations are being finalised that will enable primary care Optometry practice staff who provide healthcare services to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. There are currently two arms to the Northern Ireland vaccination programme, one that is delivered by the HSC Trusts and one that is delivered by General Medical Practices. Optometry practice staff will be vaccinated via the Trust-based programme using the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, which is currently delivering the vaccination to health and social care workers and care home residents.

A digital booking platform has been established for the Trust-based program and it is planned that Optometry practice staff will be able to book an appointment through this system. It is anticipated that Optometry practice staff should be able to book an appointment for the vaccination from the week commencing 18 January 2021. The coordinators of the vaccination programme have advised me that further information will be provided and exact details of how you can book an appointment will be shared with you as soon as possible.

As you know the COVID-19 vaccination programme will be rolled out over the coming weeks and months in line with Joint Committee on Vaccine and Immunisation recommendations to both the HSC Workforce and the public. Initial supplies of vaccine have been limited however HSCB expect that this position will improve over the coming weeks.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do in the care of your patients and support for the health and social care service. I hope that this update provides some reassurance, stay safe.

Yours sincerely
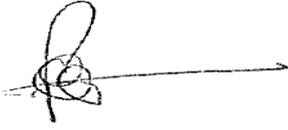
Raymond Curran
Head of Ophthalmic Services
Health and Social Care Board