

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

THE COVID-19 VACCINATION PLAN AND PRIORITIES

87.5% OF PEOPLE WHO DIED WITH COVID-19 WERE OVER 70 YEARS!

Since the publication of the Vaccination Plan with a clearly expressed intention of "Saving Lives", expectations were created among the elderly population, based on priorities defined in this consensual plan. However, a greater vaccine shortage than that expected for phase one has been matched with greater flexibility of the vaccination plan, with new definition of more people/groups as priorities for this same phase one. We can be facing unclear changing procedures which might induce many other groups to profile themselves for new priorities. With all professional sectors applying for vaccination and given the shortage of available vaccines, 65 to 69, 70 to 75 years and 75 to 79 years age groups are being left behind, without guarantee of being vaccinated in April, as originally planned. At the same time, the risk groups defined as priorities for phase one are seeing their vaccination postponed and occurring at a slow pace. Any Plan must inspire public trust, but this one that is being modified for each claim, ceases to be a Plan. There are people aged 70 and over with severe chronic disease, considered for inclusion in the first phase, (coronary heart disease, for example) who are still waiting a first call.

As the risk of mortality for older people has not changed:

- APRe! rejects any amendment that undermines priorities set out in the Vaccination Plan, particularly the protection of the most vulnerable. The interposition of a professional priority will leave many vulnerable people behind.
- APRe! rejects any other amendment of the Vaccination Plan which depends on pressure groups.
- APRe! requires public authorities, European and national, to not subjugate themselves to pharmaceutical companies, pressing them to produce more vaccines and meet the agreed terms.
- APRe! demands to know whether compliance with the plan, concerning phase one of "Save Lives" group, where pathologies of higher incidence and higher risk of mortality from Covid are placed in, will not be harmed by the introduction of new "priorities" in the group "Preserving Resilience" and will be completed up to the end of this first quarter.

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By APRe! direction
Maria do Rosário Gama.
(President of the Board)

