



Oifig Náisiúnta Imdhíonta

Aonaid 8/9 Páirc Gnó Shráid  
an Mhainéir  
Sráid an Mhainéir  
Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 X320

HSE National  
Immunisation Office

Unit 8/9 Manor Street  
Business Park  
Manor Street  
Dublin 7, D07 X320

[www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)  
[@HSEImm](https://twitter.com/HSEImm)

t 01 8676108

e [immunisation@hse.ie](mailto:immunisation@hse.ie)

## **Primary and Second Level Vaccination Programmes 2022/2023**

Dear Boards of Management,

The HSE greatly appreciates the on-going co-operation of Boards of Management and staff of schools in the implementation of the HSE's Schools Immunisation Programme to protect children from serious infectious diseases.

I am writing to share an update from the HSE about the School Immunisation Programmes delivered in Junior Infants of primary schools and First year of second level schools (and age equivalent who are attending special schools) for the 2022/2023 academic year.

We acknowledge that schools have faced significant challenges since the emergence of COVID-19, however I am writing to request your support for the return to school premises based delivery of vaccination programmes. An instruction to your members to work with the HSE school teams to find solutions to ensure students can be vaccinated would be greatly appreciated.

Research from all over the world shows that offering school aged vaccines on school premises delivers higher uptake than vaccines delivered off site. Now that society is opened and travel has resumed children will be more at risk of coming into contact with vaccine preventable diseases or missing opportunities to get vaccinated. Children developing vaccine preventable diseases could also negatively impact teachers who are pregnant or have weak immune systems.

We would be grateful if schools could continue to distribute the HSE vaccine information packs to students. Having completed consent forms available allows the HSE school teams to plan immunisation sessions in advance.

Programme information will be available from [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie) and [www.hpv.ie](http://www.hpv.ie) in August should you require additional information.

### **Programme Updates**

#### **School Class Lists**

The HSE is currently working with colleagues from the Department of Education on data sharing of class lists. The purpose of this project is to enable the Schools Immunisation System to be able to associate children with particular classes in schools with the aim of improving data quality and vaccine uptake.

#### **Junior Infants**

The routine booster dose of 4 in 1 (diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), polio and tetanus) vaccine and a second dose of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine will continue for pupils in Junior Infants. These vaccines will be offered by HSE vaccination teams in primary schools in all parts of the country except Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim where they are given by general practitioners in their surgeries.

## **First Year**

The HPV (Human Papillomavirus), Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) and MenACWY (Meningococcal disease) vaccines will continue for all pupils in first year. These vaccines will be offered by HSE vaccination teams in second level schools in all parts of the country.

## **Supporting people from Ukraine**

School teams will have access to translated materials in Ukrainian and Russian for students in Junior Infants and First Year for the 2022/2023 academic year for those who require them. We would encourage schools to work with vaccination teams to ensure sufficient copies of translated materials are available to support students eligible for vaccination.

## **Other vaccines**

### **COVID-19 Vaccine**

We would appreciate if schools could continue to encourage uptake of COVID-19 vaccines for all who are eligible. There are still opportunities to receive a primary course of COVID-19 vaccine.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee has also recommended booster vaccines for people with certain conditions and those of a certain age.

Vaccines are not delivered on school premises. More details including where vaccination can be obtained is available from [www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine](http://www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine)

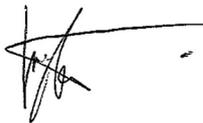
### **Flu Vaccine**

The seasonal influenza vaccination programme will launch in October. We would appreciate your support in encouraging students and eligible staff members to get this important vaccine.

Programme details will be available from [www.hse.ie/flu](http://www.hse.ie/flu) closer to the launch.

Once again thank you for your support of the schools immunisation programme.

Kind Regards



---

Dr Lucy Jessop  
Consultant in Public Health Medicine – National Immunisations Lead  
National Immunisation Office  
MRCN 424447