

10th May 2010

To: All Principal Medical Officers

Dear Colleague

Recent queries regarding whether oxygen should be available at school based vaccination sessions were referred to members of the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) who have issued the following statement:

"Anaphylaxis after vaccine administration is very rare - less than 1 in a million doses. Based on international best practice and available evidence the National Immunisation Advisory Committee has recommended that oxygen need not be routinely be available to nurses or doctors when they are administering vaccines in the community. The patients should be treated as recommended in the updated protocol "Anaphylactic Reactions: Treatment in the community" from the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland available at http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Downloads/NIACGuidelines/PDFFile_16148_en.pdf and emergency services should be contacted"

I trust this clarifies the issue.

Yours sincerely



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