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14th March 2022

Deputy Duncan Smith
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ11708/22 To ask the Minister for Health the number of boys who received the HPV vaccine in schools in each of the years 2018 to 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Smith

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

Following a recommendation from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC), that human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine should be given to 12 year old girls, a routine Health Service Executive (HSE) school HPV vaccination programme began in May 2010 for girls in the first year of second level school and age equivalent in special schools and home schooled.

Quadrivalent HPV vaccine, which protects against HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18 associated with 70% of cervical cancer, was used in the school vaccination programme until 2018/2019. Prior to 2014/2015 a schedule of three vaccine doses given over a six month period was recommended. A schedule of two vaccine doses given at least six months apart was recommended since the academic year 2014/2015 for girls aged <15 years. This change is based on more recent data which showed that the immune response to two doses of the vaccine in 9-13 year old girls is comparable to a three dose course. In the 2019/2020 academic year the programme was extended to boys and HPV 9-valent vaccine was introduced for both boys and girls.

For the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years the denominator by gender is currently only available at a national level for second level schools. The number of boys in first year in second level schools in the academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21 and vaccinated are shown in tables below.

On Thursday, March 12th 2020, the government introduced measures as part of the national effort to interrupt the transmission of COVID-19. There were challenges delivering the immunisations to schools during the COVID-19 pandemic i.e. the impact of school closures, lack of suitable space to deliver vaccines once schools reopened. There were also challenges to entering the vaccination records into the database as a result of staff redeployment (e.g. to COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 vaccination). **Data entry for the 2020/21 academic year is not complete and therefore these numbers and rates are still provisional.**

**HPV vaccine uptake for males in second level schools in the 2019/20 academic year cohort
and include children in this cohort but vaccinated outside the academic year**

Data extracted from the School Immunisation System 12/11/2021

		First Year male children in second level schools						
Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO)	Local Health Office/CHO	Denominator	Numbers Vaccinated with:			% Vaccinated with:		
			At least Stage 1	At least Stage 2	At least Stage 3	At least Stage 1	At least Stage 2	At least Stage 3
CHO1	Cavan/Monaghan	1049	835	802	0	79.6	76.5	0.0
	Donegal	1240	948	921	0	76.5	74.3	0.0
	Sligo/Leitrim	775	601	590	0	77.5	76.1	0.0
	CHO1 Total	3064	2384	2313	0	77.8	75.5	0.0
CHO2	Galway	1894	1558	1530	0	82.3	80.8	0.0
	Mayo	944	776	760	0	82.2	80.5	0.0
	Roscommon	379	302	288	0	79.7	76.0	0.0
	CHO2 Total	3217	2636	2578	0	81.9	80.1	0.0
CHO3	Clare	823	724	707	0	88.0	85.9	0.0
	Limerick	1107	920	810	0	83.1	73.2	0.0
	Tipperary NR/East Limerick	979	842	809	0	86.0	82.6	0.0
	CHO3 Total	2909	2486	2326	0	85.5	80.0	0.0
CHO4	Kerry	1036	803	765	0	77.5	73.8	0.0
	North Cork	692	563	527	0	81.4	76.2	0.0
	North Lee-Cork	1574	1320	1260	0	83.9	80.1	0.0
	South Lee-Cork	1342	1141	1119	2	85.0	83.4	0.1
	West Cork	385	292	289	0	75.8	75.1	0.0
	CHO4 Total	5029	4119	3960	2	81.9	78.7	0.0
CHO5	Carlow/Kilkenny	1117	951	914	0	85.1	81.8	0.0
	South Tipperary	689	555	512	0	80.6	74.3	0.0
	Waterford	1002	805	768	0	80.3	76.6	0.0
	Wexford	1204	938	853	0	77.9	70.8	0.0
	CHO5 Total	4012	3249	3047	0	81.0	75.9	0.0
CHO6	Dublin South	1083	959	907	0	88.6	83.7	0.0
	Dublin South East	619	554	545	0	89.5	88.0	0.0
	Wicklow	907	747	731	0	82.4	80.6	0.0
	CHO6 Total	2609	2260	2183	0	86.6	83.7	0.0
CHO7	Dublin South City	764	690	666	0	90.3	87.2	0.0
	Dublin South West	971	765	674	0	78.8	69.4	0.0
	Dublin West	1117	852	816	0	76.3	73.1	0.0
	Kildare/West Wicklow	1999	1721	1637	0	86.1	81.9	0.0
	CHO7 Total	4851	4028	3793	0	83.0	78.2	0.0
CHO8	Laois/Offaly	1319	1079	975	0	81.8	73.9	0.0
	Longford/Westmeath	1137	888	847	0	78.1	74.5	0.0
	Louth	1271	987	900	0	77.7	70.8	0.0
	Meath	1480	1214	1164	0	82.0	78.6	0.0
	CHO8 Total	5207	4168	3886	0	80.0	74.6	0.0
CHO9	Dublin North	1792	1442	1376	1	80.5	76.8	0.1
	Dublin North Central	858	674	628	0	78.6	73.2	0.0
	Dublin North West	1425	1061	951	0	74.5	66.7	0.0
	CHO9 Total	4075	3177	2955	1	78.0	72.5	0.0
Total of LHOs		34973	28509	27042	3	81.5	77.3	0.0

The denominator for males above is taken from Department of Education second level schools data. The uptake figures above include a small number of children who were vaccinated but who are not in the denominator figures.

**HPV vaccine uptake for males in second level schools in the 2020/21 academic year cohort
and include children in this cohort but vaccinated outside the academic year**

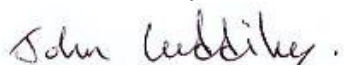
Data extracted from the School Immunisation System 08/03/2022

First Year male children in second level schools								
Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO)	Local Health Office/CHO	Denominator	Numbers Vaccinated with:			% Vaccinated with:		
			At least Stage 1	At least Stage 2	At least Stage 3	At least Stage 1	At least Stage 2	At least Stage 3
CHO1	Cavan/Monaghan	1157	901	818	0	77.9	70.7	0.0
	Donegal	1311	887	867	0	67.7	66.1	0.0
	Sligo/Leitrim	736	557	512	1	75.7	69.6	0.1
	CHO1 Total	3204	2345	2197	1	73.2	68.6	0.0
CHO2	Galway	2015	1586	1568	1	78.7	77.8	0.0
	Mayo	931	764	733	1	82.1	78.7	0.1
	Roscommon	405	310	301	0	76.5	74.3	0.0
	CHO2 Total	3351	2660	2602	2	79.4	77.6	0.1
CHO3	Clare	820	666	644	0	81.2	78.5	0.0
	Limerick	1121	884	747	0	78.9	66.6	0.0
	Tipperary NR/East Limerick	1001	828	730	0	82.7	72.9	0.0
	CHO3 Total	2942	2378	2121	0	80.8	72.1	0.0
CHO4	Kerry	1060	837	801	0	79.0	75.6	0.0
	North Cork	762	628	604	0	82.4	79.3	0.0
	North Lee-Cork	1564	1272	1257	0	81.3	80.4	0.0
	South Lee-Cork	1372	1161	1134	1	84.6	82.7	0.1
	West Cork	368	297	292	0	80.7	79.3	0.0
	CHO4 Total	5126	4195	4088	1	81.8	79.8	0.0
CHO5	Carlow/Kilkenny	1128	979	921	0	86.8	81.6	0.0
	South Tipperary	643	496	459	0	77.1	71.4	0.0
	Waterford	1033	782	733	1	75.7	71.0	0.1
	Wexford	1259	902	839	0	71.6	66.6	0.0
	CHO5 Total	4063	3159	2952	1	77.8	72.7	0.0
CHO6	Dublin South	1152	466	42	0	40.5	3.6	0.0
	Dublin South East	647	608	591	0	94.0	91.3	0.0
	Wicklow	964	809	744	0	83.9	77.2	0.0
	CHO6 Total	2763	1883	1377	0	68.2	49.8	0.0
CHO7	Dublin South City	864	752	694	0	87.0	80.3	0.0
	Dublin South West	990	700	647	0	70.7	65.4	0.0
	Dublin West	1194	907	799	0	76.0	66.9	0.0
	Kildare/West Wicklow	2213	1858	1694	0	84.0	76.5	0.0
	CHO7 Total	5261	4217	3834	0	80.2	72.9	0.0
CHO8	Laois/Offaly	1382	1022	432	0	74.0	31.3	0.0
	Longford/Westmeath	1183	848	449	0	71.7	38.0	0.0
	Louth	1331	915	208	0	68.7	15.6	0.0
	Meath	1599	1144	1100	1	71.5	68.8	0.1
	CHO8 Total	5495	3929	2189	1	71.5	39.8	0.0
CHO9	Dublin North	1917	1515	1378	1	79.0	71.9	0.1
	Dublin North Central	840	626	567	0	74.5	67.5	0.0
	Dublin North West	1544	1067	934	1	69.1	60.5	0.1
	CHO9 Total	4301	3208	2879	2	74.6	66.9	0.0
Total of LHOs		36506	27984	24244	8	76.7	66.4	0.0

The denominator for males above is taken from Department of Education second level schools data. The uptake figures above include a small number of children who were vaccinated but who are not in the denominator figures.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cuddihy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Dr John Cuddihy,
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