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16th March 2022

Deputy Roisin Shortall
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ14687/22 To ask the Minister for Health the latest HPV vaccine uptake rates for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall

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 in in the first year of second level school and age equivalent in special schools and home schooled.

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 girls in first year in second level schools in the academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21 and vaccinated and the number of girls in the 2018/19 academic year cohort 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.

The immunisation programme for 2021/22 academic year is still occurring in the schools and data entry is incomplete even for those vaccines administered. Provisional data will be available later this year.

HPV vaccine uptake for the 2018/19 academic year cohort of girls
and include girls in this cohort but vaccinated outside the academic year

Data extracted from the School Immunisation System 04/12/2020

Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO)	Local Health Office/CHO	First Year girls in second level and age equivalent* in special schools, home schooled and out of school							Outside Cohort			
		Denominator or	Numbers Vaccinated with:			% Vaccinated with:			Denominator	Numbers 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		At least Stage 1	At least Stage 2	At least Stage 3
CHO1	Cavan/Monaghan	909	713	701	7	78.4	77.1	0.8	N/A	13	13	8
	Donegal	1110	717	702	0	64.6	63.2	0.0	N/A	35	32	14
	Sligo/Leitrim	654	477	473	0	72.9	72.3	0.0	N/A	20	20	11
	CHO1 Total	2673	1907	1876	7	71.3	70.2	0.3	N/A	68	65	33
CHO2	Galway	1673	1340	1331	1	80.1	79.6	0.1	N/A	42	42	26
	Mayo	861	655	644	0	76.1	74.8	0.0	N/A	81	79	46
	Roscommon	340	248	246	1	72.9	72.4	0.3	N/A	29	26	14
	CHO2 Total	2874	2243	2221	2	78.0	77.3	0.1	N/A	152	147	86
CHO3	Clare	781	635	633	0	81.3	81.0	0.0	N/A	87	85	29
	Limerick	1129	797	753	0	70.6	66.7	0.0	N/A	23	18	3
	Tipperary NR/East	959	762	748	0	79.5	78.0	0.0	N/A	42	37	14
	CHO3 Total	2869	2194	2134	0	76.5	74.4	0.0	N/A	152	140	46
CHO4	Kerry	980	678	651	0	69.2	66.4	0.0	N/A	24	20	12
	North Cork	677	512	501	3	75.6	74.0	0.4	N/A	45	42	20
	North Lee-Cork	1386	1064	1042	0	76.8	75.2	0.0	N/A	59	59	25
	South Lee-Cork	1244	960	941	0	77.2	75.6	0.0	N/A	135	130	80
	West Cork	323	235	233	0	72.8	72.1	0.0	N/A	29	29	14
CHO4 Total	4610	3449	3368	3	74.8	73.1	0.1	N/A	292	280	151	
CHO5	Carlow/Kilkenny	1040	871	848	2	83.8	81.5	0.2	N/A	62	59	28
	South Tipperary	599	424	415	0	70.8	69.3	0.0	N/A	16	15	9
	Waterford	870	652	647	1	74.9	74.4	0.1	N/A	87	85	35
	Wexford	1086	768	740	2	70.7	68.1	0.2	N/A	10	8	5
	CHO5 Total	3595	2715	2650	5	75.5	73.7	0.1	N/A	175	167	77
CHO6	Dublin South	970	819	799	2	84.4	82.4	0.2	N/A	12	11	2
	Dublin South East	695	602	597	9	86.6	85.9	1.3	N/A	45	43	29
	Wicklow	812	654	641	6	80.5	78.9	0.7	N/A	35	33	10
	CHO6 Total	2477	2075	2037	17	83.8	82.2	0.7	N/A	92	87	41
CHO7	Dublin South City	852	718	708	6	84.3	83.1	0.7	N/A	45	46	21
	Dublin South West	807	541	515	3	67.0	63.8	0.4	N/A	26	25	8
	Dublin West	1004	736	670	2	73.3	66.7	0.2	N/A	42	37	14
	Kildare/West Wicklow	1809	1435	1361	1	79.3	75.2	0.1	N/A	6	3	0
	CHO7 Total	4472	3430	3254	12	76.7	72.8	0.3	N/A	119	111	43
CHO8	Laois/Offaly	1044	827	809	0	79.2	77.5	0.0	N/A	56	52	8
	Longford/Westmeath	1095	808	790	2	73.8	72.1	0.2	N/A	59	59	30
	Louth	1089	758	742	2	69.6	68.1	0.2	N/A	59	57	29
	Meath	1377	1056	1047	2	76.7	76.0	0.1	N/A	119	115	56
	CHO8 Total	4605	3449	3388	6	74.9	73.6	0.1	N/A	293	283	123
CHO9	Dublin North	1632	1140	1116	0	69.9	68.4	0.0	N/A	22	17	1
	Dublin North Central	690	504	493	2	73.0	71.4	0.3	N/A	64	60	20
	Dublin North West	1319	968	926	0	73.4	70.2	0.0	N/A	77	71	14
	CHO9 Total	3641	2612	2535	2	71.7	69.6	0.1	N/A	163	148	35
Homeschooled		10	3	2	0	30.0	20.0	0.0	N/A	2	0	0
Total of LHOs and Homeschooled		31826	24077	23465	54	75.7	73.7	0.2	N/A	1508	1428	635
Out of School		N/A	1	1	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	1	1
Total of LHOs, Homeschooled and Out of School		N\A	24078	23466	54	N\A	N\A	N\A	N\A	1510	1429	636

*Age equivalents are those born between 01/09/2005 and 31/08/2006

N/A-Not applicable

HPV vaccine uptake for females 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 female children in second level						
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	1011	861	830	1	85.2	82.1	0.1
	Donegal	1169	919	897	0	78.6	76.7	0.0
	Sligo/Leitrim	736	579	568	1	78.7	77.2	0.1
	CHO1 Total	2916	2359	2295	2	80.9	78.7	0.1
CHO2	Galway	1894	1652	1613	12	87.2	85.2	0.6
	Mayo	880	722	714	0	82.0	81.1	0.0
	Roscommon	366	294	285	0	80.3	77.9	0.0
	CHO2 Total	3140	2668	2612	12	85.0	83.2	0.4
CHO3	Clare	792	699	687	0	88.3	86.7	0.0
	Limerick	1045	921	820	0	88.1	78.5	0.0
	Tipperary NR/East	1059	943	919	4	89.0	86.8	0.4
	CHO3 Total	2896	2563	2426	4	88.5	83.8	0.1
CHO4	Kerry	1011	824	792	5	81.5	78.3	0.5
	North Cork	745	650	615	3	87.2	82.6	0.4
	North Lee-Cork	1398	1185	1136	0	84.8	81.3	0.0
	South Lee-Cork	1301	1093	1076	7	84.0	82.7	0.5
	West Cork	397	316	312	0	79.6	78.6	0.0
	CHO4 Total	4852	4068	3931	15	83.8	81.0	0.3
CHO5	Carlow/Kilkenny	1091	926	908	0	84.9	83.2	0.0
	South Tipperary	566	460	434	0	81.3	76.7	0.0
	Waterford	917	758	741	1	82.7	80.8	0.1
	Wexford	1204	944	870	2	78.4	72.3	0.2
	CHO5 Total	3778	3088	2953	3	81.7	78.2	0.1
CHO6	Dublin South	984	852	826	0	86.6	83.9	0.0
	Dublin South East	755	690	672	7	91.4	89.0	0.9
	Wicklow	853	756	738	4	88.6	86.5	0.5
	CHO6 Total	2592	2298	2236	11	88.7	86.3	0.4
CHO7	Dublin South City	903	839	797	6	92.9	88.3	0.7
	Dublin South West	864	685	644	2	79.3	74.5	0.2
	Dublin West	1196	968	933	2	80.9	78.0	0.2
	Kildare/West Wicklow	1897	1656	1599	5	87.3	84.3	0.3
	CHO7 Total	4860	4148	3973	15	85.3	81.7	0.3
CHO8	Laos/Offaly	1169	1003	920	0	85.8	78.7	0.0
	Longford/Westmeath	1129	919	887	2	81.4	78.6	0.2
	Louth	1161	932	874	0	80.3	75.3	0.0
	Meath	1491	1253	1205	0	84.0	80.8	0.0
	CHO8 Total	4950	4107	3886	2	83.0	78.5	0.0
CHO9	Dublin North	1881	1544	1479	3	82.1	78.6	0.2
	Dublin North Central	699	577	548	3	82.5	78.4	0.4
	Dublin North West	1462	1166	1059	0	79.8	72.4	0.0
	CHO9 Total	4042	3287	3086	6	81.3	76.3	0.1
Total of LHOs		34026	28588	27400	70	84.0	80.5	0.2

The denominator for females 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 females 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 female children in second level								
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	1052	715	657	1	68.0	62.5	0.1
	Donegal	1248	877	864	0	70.3	69.2	0.0
	Sligo/Leitrim	694	550	524	3	79.3	75.5	0.4
	CHO1 Total	2994	2142	2045	4	71.5	68.3	0.1
CHO2	Galway	1920	1608	1601	1	83.8	83.4	0.1
	Mayo	919	754	731	0	82.0	79.5	0.0
	Roscommon	374	287	283	0	76.7	75.7	0.0
	CHO2 Total	3213	2649	2615	1	82.4	81.4	0.0
CHO3	Clare	820	709	688	0	86.5	83.9	0.0
	Limerick	1096	892	767	0	81.4	70.0	0.0
	Tipperary NR/East	1087	920	845	0	84.6	77.7	0.0
	CHO3 Total	3003	2521	2300	0	83.9	76.6	0.0
CHO4	Kerry	1098	869	848	2	79.1	77.2	0.2
	North Cork	739	627	617	1	84.8	83.5	0.1
	North Lee-Cork	1438	1169	1148	0	81.3	79.8	0.0
	South Lee-Cork	1452	1243	1218	0	85.6	83.9	0.0
	West Cork	369	315	312	0	85.4	84.6	0.0
	CHO4 Total	5096	4223	4143	3	82.9	81.3	0.1
CHO5	Carlow/Kilkenny	1107	934	849	1	84.4	76.7	0.1
	South Tipperary	630	501	472	0	79.5	74.9	0.0
	Waterford	955	779	744	1	81.6	77.9	0.1
	Wexford	1226	952	911	0	77.7	74.3	0.0
	CHO5 Total	3918	3166	2976	2	80.8	76.0	0.1
CHO6	Dublin South	1023	518	85	0	50.6	8.3	0.0
	Dublin South East	813	742	726	0	91.3	89.3	0.0
	Wicklow	896	779	734	0	86.9	81.9	0.0
	CHO6 Total	2732	2039	1545	0	74.6	56.6	0.0
CHO7	Dublin South City	926	811	782	0	87.6	84.4	0.0
	Dublin South West	920	668	621	0	72.6	67.5	0.0
	Dublin West	1178	894	818	0	75.9	69.4	0.0
	Kildare/West Wicklow	2035	1714	1580	0	84.2	77.6	0.0
	CHO7 Total	5059	4087	3801	0	80.8	75.1	0.0
CHO8	Laois/Offaly	1183	893	412	0	75.5	34.8	0.0
	Longford/Westmeath	1159	874	467	0	75.4	40.3	0.0
	Louth	1241	893	398	0	72.0	32.1	0.0
	Meath	1591	1208	1177	0	75.9	74.0	0.0
	CHO8 Total	5174	3868	2454	0	74.8	47.4	0.0
CHO9	Dublin North	1866	1529	1419	0	81.9	76.0	0.0
	Dublin North Central	795	633	583	1	79.6	73.3	0.1
	Dublin North West	1458	1031	920	0	70.7	63.1	0.0
	CHO9 Total	4119	3193	2922	1	77.5	70.9	0.0
Total of LHOs		35308	27906	24811	11	79.0	70.3	0.0

The denominator for females 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 with a period at the end.

**Dr John Cuddihy,
Interim Director of HPSC,
25-27, Middle Gardiner St.,
Dublin 1.**

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