



Bainisteoir Ginearálta Cúram Príomhúil,  
HSE Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Bhaile Átha Cliath Thiar thuaidh,  
Foirgneamh Nexus, Aonad 1, 2 & 3,  
Páirc Chorpáraídeach Bhaile Bhlainséir,  
Baile Átha Cliath 15, D15 CF9K

General Manager Primary Care,  
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation  
Dublin North West  
Nexus Building, Unit 1, 2 & 3, Blanchardstown  
Corporate Park,  
Dublin 15 D15 CF9K

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)  
t 01 8605820  
e [gm.dnw@hse.ie](mailto:gm.dnw@hse.ie)

Ms Denise Mitchell TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

**PQ 8536/23** – *“To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that children in schools in Dublin north central are being asked to travel to Swords to receive their MMR vaccines; the rationale for this; the reason they cannot be facilitated within schools; if he is concerned that some children will not receive this vaccination as they are unable to travel; if there are plans to facilitate these children otherwise; and if he will make a statement on the matter”*

– **Denise Mitchell TD**

Dear Deputy Mitchell

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

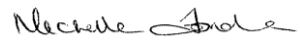
Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) have used the Community Vaccination Centre (CVC) model for school immunisations for the past number of years. This is an efficient mechanism to deliver a multitude of vaccination and immunisation programmes to the population, a model that has been refined, particularly during large scale vaccination campaigns such as Covid-19 vaccinations. In 2022/2023, CHO DNCC are utilising a blended approach to deliver our school immunisation programme. A two pronged approach is underway:

All children who are eligible to take part in school immunisation programme, including MMR vaccinations, have been invited to CVC and over 70% attended over a short four-six week period. This is in contrast to taking 30 or so weeks to provide similar immunisation in a school setting.

1. Schools with low uptake have been identified and are being supported and targeted with specific immunisation clinics being held on-site. At present we have two teams attending DEIS and Low Uptake Schools around the CHO. It is anticipated that initial lower uptake rate, which is based only on step one of our approach i.e. CVC figures, will improve within the timeframe normally provided for in a school based approach.
2. To enhance access to immunisations and support families who find it difficult to access transport to Swords CVC, at a recent meeting with the immunisation team, it was agreed that Croke Park will also be used as a CVC in addition to the mobile school teams. It is anticipated that at the end of the programme, CHO DNCC will reach uptake rates comparable with national figures.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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Michelle Forde  
General Manager  
Primary Care Dublin North West