



BY EMAIL ONLY

02nd August 2023

Deputy Smith
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 37095/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of providing the HPV vaccine for free to adults who have not received it but want to access it through their GP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith

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.

Since 2010 the HSE has offered HPV vaccine to female students in first year of second level and this programme was expanded in 2019 to include male students in first year. To date over 550,000 students have received HPV vaccine. This programme will continue in the 2023/2024 academic year in first year and age equivalent in special schools and people who are home schooled.

Throughout 2023 the HSE has been offering a catch up opportunity to those who were previously eligible but did not avail of the opportunity to get vaccinated as part of the HSE School Immunisation Programme. This programme is available to:

- females in 2nd to 6th year of secondary school
- females under the age of 25
- males in 2nd to 4th year of secondary school
- males in 5th year who skipped Transition Year

This programme is scheduled to close at the end of 2023.

The HPV vaccine is also available in sexual health clinics for certain eligible groups.

The HSE implements programmes on behalf of the Department of Health in line with immunisation policy. It is currently not Department of Health immunisation policy to provide HPV vaccine to adults as part of the National Immunisation Programmes. Therefore, it is not possible to provide an estimated amount of providing the programme.

Information about the HPV vaccine is available from www.hpv.ie

Dr John Cuddihy

National Director of Public Health

MCRN: 16227