



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

General Manager Primary Care
Vaccinations and Orthodontics Services
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County
Nexus Building, Unit 1, 2 & 3,
Blanchardstown Corporate Park,
Dublin 15 D15 CF9K

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)
t 01 8975164
e fiacra.mcquirk@hse.ie

Mr Cian O'Callaghan TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

25th March 2024

PQ 7206/24 – *“To ask the Minister for Health which vaccination centres are being used in CHO9 for the MMR vaccine programme; if alternative centres will be provided for those who are unable to travel to the offered centre; the uptake of the MMR vaccine in CHO9 over the past five years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter”* – **Cian O'Callaghan TD**

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive is now implementing an extended MMR Catchup Programme. The immunisation campaign will offer MMR vaccine to unvaccinated or under vaccinated individuals in prioritised groups.

The priority groups for the programme are:

- Children
- Young people up to age 24 years
- Healthcare workers
- Underserved populations such as Travellers, Roma, people who are homeless, refugees and applicants seeking protection and other vulnerable migrants.
- People aged 25 to 34 years and opportunistic vaccination of older people with additional risks.

Under arrangements in place since November 2023 ([ref Circular S0057-NCO-23](#)) a scheme was in place for GP's to offer routine and catch up MMR for children aged 14 months to 10 years old inclusive who may have missed out on their MMR vaccination. As an interim arrangement, the HSE agreed with the Irish Medical Organisation to extend this agreement to allow GP's to administer first and second doses to all ages on an opportunistic basis where patients present for vaccination. From 6th March 2024, GP's will undertake a proactive catch up campaign for those aged under 18 years old. This will involve participating GP practices actively engaging with the relevant cohort in their client base.

The second dose of MMR in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) is administered to Junior Infants by the HSE School Immunisation Team. 201 primary schools including special schools are located in this area. As of Friday 8th March 2024 166 of these schools have been visited which represents a completion rate of 83%. 35 primary school remain to be visited with a scheduled completion date of 25th April 2024.

Catch up vaccination clinics outside the school setting have been run across the CHO DNCC in areas including Balbriggan, Coolock, Corduff,, Finglas and Swords since mid-February with over 230 catch up MMR vaccinations administered during February and a further 145 administered at clinic's this month.

HSE Immunisation Teams have been on site in a variety of 3rd level and post Leaving Cert educational facilities since Monday 11th March 2023 targeting young people for MMR catch up vaccination. Locations visited this week include Dublin City University, Technical University Dublin Blanchardstown and Grangegorman, National College of Ireland, Coláiste Dhúlaigh campus in Coolock, Raheny and Kilbarrack and Colaiste Íde in Finglas.

HSE Immunisation Teams continue to work with their Primary Care Social Inclusion colleagues to identify areas and communities who may not have previously accepted MMR vaccination.

Our teams continue to offer the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) and International Protection Applicants (IPA) catch up programme including MMR to congregated settings where measles could spread quickly amongst non-immune residents.

Eligible members of the public can attend MMR Catch Up programme clinics from Tuesday 19th March 2024. These clinics will be delivered in a range of locations throughout CHO DNCC which include: Primary Care Centres, Croke Park Vaccination Hub and other suitable locations located across the CHO. This network of HSE MMR catch up clinics will facilitate convenient access for the public to a local clinic. For example, next week clinics will be offered in Croke Park Vaccination Hub, Balbriggan Primary Care Centre, Coolock Primary Care Centre and Corduff Primary Care Centre. Members of the public will be able to book MMR vaccination appointments via an online booking portal, which will be launched nationally next week. Walk in appointments will also be available at these locations. A national Comms campaign will support this programme.

If you would like more information about the MMR vaccine and measles please visit:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/pcischedule/vpds/mmr/>

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,



Fiacra McGuirk
General Manager
Primary Care Vaccination and Orthodontic Services