



Issued via Email 31st October 2024

VPCC 31.10.24

Letter to Pharmacies re LAIV Schools Programme

Dear Colleague,

The Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccination (LAIV) schools programme commenced on 7th October. LAIV is recommended for all children aged **2-17 years**. We are issuing this letter before schools return as a reminder of some of the important points in running a vaccination clinic in school.

Prior to vaccination, it must be confirmed that informed consent has been given by a parent/legal guardian for students aged under 16 years or by the student themselves if they are aged 16-17 years old. LAIV cannot be administered to those aged 18 years and above.

Prior to attending a school to administer vaccinations, all consent forms should be reviewed so no child attends vaccination with an outstanding query. If consent forms are returned on the day of vaccination, it may not be appropriate to review them during the vaccination clinic, so a return visit or vaccination in the pharmacy can be arranged. The composition of immunisation teams should be agreed locally in advance and will depend on the number of students in the school, however, at least two trained personnel who are trained in the management of anaphylaxis and basic life support are required at each vaccination clinic.

Pharmacies may provide their own screening questionnaire and consent forms. Alternatively, you may use the HSE consent forms available online:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/fluinfo/flu2to17form.pdf>

Please note that the consent forms available on the HSE website allow a parent to provide a signature when consent for vaccination is being given or is not being given. All signed consent forms should be reviewed to assess if a parent has consented to vaccination or has refused vaccination.

On the vaccination day it is vital to confirm the student's identity by asking questions like: "What is your full name? When is your Birthday? Where do you live? Who signed the consent form? What is their name?" For younger children it may be necessary to confirm identity with the child's teacher or an appropriate liaison person (as agreed with the School Principal) from the school.

For additional information about consent please refer to the HSE National Consent Policy:

<https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/procedures-guidelines/hse-consent-policy/>

For additional information about vaccination in a school setting including the consent process, please refer to the Toolkit to Support the Administration of Flu Vaccination to Children in Primary Schools or Community Settings by Primary Care

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/fluinfo/toolkitlaivprimarycareoutreach.pdf>

We thank you for your continued participation in this service to protect children against influenza this autumn.

Kind regards,

Liz Kelso

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