How to achieve 95% uptake in a School Immunisation Programme

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Principal Medical Officer
‘Achieving 95% Uptake in an Immunisation Programme – Not an Impossibility’

J Joyce-Cooney, G Meagher, C Quinn, I Cavanagh
IMJ 2003; 96 (9): 268-270
School Immunisation Programme Longford/Westmeath
Community Care Area 2001-2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Junior Infants DTaP/IPV</th>
<th>Junior Infants MMR</th>
<th>Senior Infants DTaP/IPV</th>
<th>5th Class BCG</th>
<th>6th Class MMR</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Schools = 115</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Target Population</strong></td>
<td>1547</td>
<td>1547</td>
<td>1591</td>
<td>1620</td>
<td>1678</td>
<td>7983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of children vaccinated</strong></td>
<td>1474</td>
<td>1479</td>
<td>1515</td>
<td>1612</td>
<td>1578</td>
<td>7658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Uptake</strong></td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
<td>95.9%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Infants DTaP/IPV</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
<td>97.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>94.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Infants MMR</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>96.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>94.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th/6th Class BCG</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
<td>98.2</td>
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<td>97.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diftavax/diTe</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>95.7%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Success of programme attributed to:

• Dedicated School Immunisation Team working across the two counties:

  1 Community Health Doctor (S.M.O)
  2 Public Health Nurses
  1 Clerical Officer
Success of programme attributed to:

- Clear, comprehensive database for target population provided by schools, including parents’/guardians’ mobile telephone numbers
- Dedicated telephone land line for team
- Information Packs:
  - Letter of Invitation with a specific appointment
  - Relevant Information Leaflet(s)
  - Consent form for relevant vaccination(s)
- Parent/Guardian must be present for vaccination of Junior Infants Children
NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMMUNISE
Team Members’ Attributes

• Professionalism
• Child friendly
• Confidence
• Knowledge
• Commitment
• Excellent organisational skills
• Attention to detail
• Follow-up of Defaulters at Mop-up Clinics
• Good communication with GP colleagues
• Co-operation & assistance given by school principals, teaching staff & clerical staff in schools
• Support & acknowledgement from colleagues & management