

To Each General Practitioner

23rd August 2017

**RE: Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine**

Dear Doctor,

As part of the HSE school immunisation programme, all girls in first year of second level school should receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to prevent cervical cancer.

Vaccine uptake exceeded the target of 80% since 2010/11. However, this fell to 72% in 2015/16 and to an estimated first dose uptake of 50% in 2016/17 due to unfounded public concerns about vaccine safety. This is of great concern to all those involved in cancer prevention.

HPV vaccine is safe and effective and has led to a reduction in high grade cervical lesions. High vaccine uptakes are the key to the success of this vaccine.

There is evidence that the recommendation of a known health professional can lead to increased vaccine uptake. As you provide a significant role in the promotion of all vaccines we would be grateful for your co-operation in the promotion of HPV vaccine.

Please find enclosed posters for your surgery, green fact sheets to help you answer any queries and blue fact sheets with information for parents or any members of the general public.

Further information is available at [www.hpv.ie](http://www.hpv.ie)

Your co-operation in this is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



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