



Oifig Náisiúnta Imdhíonta
Aonaid 8/9 Páirc Gnó Shráid an Mhainéir
Sráid an Mhainéir
Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 X320

HSE National Immunisation Office
Unit 8/9 Manor Street Business Park
Manor Street
Dublin 7, D07 X320

www.immunisation.ie
[Twitter](#), [Instagram](#),
[YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#)
t 01 8676108
e immunisation@hse.ie

Private and Confidential

To each General Practitioner/Pharmacist

7th December 2022

RE: The Laura Brennan HPV (Human papillomavirus) Catch-up Vaccination Programme

Dear Doctor/Pharmacist,

The *Laura Brennan HPV Catch-Up Vaccination Programme* is being launched on December 8th 2022 and will run until the end of December 2023. We are writing to inform you about this HSE programme and to request your ongoing co-operation and assistance in promoting HPV vaccination in your discussions with eligible patients and their families. The programme will be delivered in HSE immunisation clinics, not in GP surgeries or pharmacies due to its time-limited nature.

As part of this programme, the HSE is offering young people another chance to protect themselves from HPV, by receiving the HPV vaccine, if they were not vaccinated when they were offered it previously. This is a once only opportunity for catch-up HPV vaccination. Specifically, the groups that will be offered this vaccination in schools and HSE immunisation clinics under the programme are:

- Females (currently in 2nd year – 6th year of secondary school, or in age-equivalent special schools or educated at home) who have not received the HPV vaccine
- Males (currently in 2nd year – 4th year of secondary school/5th year if they did not do transition year, or in age-equivalent special schools or educated at home) who have not received the HPV vaccine
- Unvaccinated females who have left second level education and are under 25 years of age on the date of vaccination

The programme will be delivered in phases, in Phase 1 those who are eligible and aged 16 – 24 years will be able to book a HPV vaccine appointment on www.hpv.ie. In 2023, the next phase of the programme will invite remaining eligible people to get a HPV vaccine.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) have recently updated their recommendations with respect to the number of doses of HPV vaccine required to be fully vaccinated. Most of those eligible to partake in the *Laura Brennan HPV Catch-Up Vaccination Programme* will now only require one dose of HPV vaccine. However, immunocompromised individuals with certain conditions outlined by the NIAC are recommended to receive three HPV vaccine doses. For further information, please see Updated NIAC Chapter 10 (November 2022) – Human papillomavirus, available at <https://bit.ly/NIACCh10>

HPV vaccine is safe and effective and has led to a reduction in high grade cervical lesions. High vaccine uptakes are key to the success of this vaccine and to ongoing efforts to eliminate cervical cancer in Ireland in line with World Health Organization (WHO) targets.

Further information is available at www.immunisation.ie and www.hpv.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Lucy Jessop,
Consultant in Public Health Medicine – National Immunisation Lead
National Immunisation Office
MRCN 424447