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### School Vaccination Programme 2024/2025

Dear Principal,

The HSE greatly appreciates the co-operation of the Principals and staff of post primary and special schools in the implementation of the HSE's Schools Immunisation Programme to protect children from serious infectious diseases.

This letter is to inform you of the Health Service Executive (HSE) school vaccination programme in 2024/2025. The World Health Organization recommends that school age vaccines should be given in schools to provide equity of access and there is scientific evidence that vaccine uptake is much higher in adolescents when they are given in schools. Therefore, your facilitation of this as much as possible is appreciated.

In December 2022, the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) issued updated recommendations about the HPV vaccine. NIAC now recommend 1 dose of HPV vaccine for most students in First year of second level school. This means most students are offered 1 dose of HPV, 1 dose of Tdap and 1 dose of MenACWY vaccine, which can be given together at the same visit.

Therefore, HSE school vaccination teams will in the main only require one visit to second level schools to deliver HPV, Tdap and MenACWY vaccines to students.

We would be grateful if schools could distribute the HSE vaccine information packs as usual to students. Having completed consent forms available allows the HSE school teams to plan immunisation sessions in advance.

Young people cannot receive the vaccines unless a parent or guardian has signed the consent form. To remind parents to return the consent forms you may wish to add some information on the vaccine programme to your school website, social media accounts or send it by text alert.

Suggested text for this reminder is... *The HSE school immunisation teams are visiting our school on ... **insert dates**.... to offer vaccines to first year students to protect them against HPV, meningococcal disease, tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough. Information leaflets and consent forms have been sent home with the pupils. Please look out for this information and return the signed consent form to school as soon as possible. Further information on the vaccines can be found at [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)*

Should you or any parents require further information please visit our website, you will also find contact details for your local immunisation office on [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

Once again thank you for your support of the schools immunisation programme.

Yours sincerely

Dr Lucy Jessop

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