



School Vaccination Programme 2021/2022

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 2021/2022. 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 uptakes are much higher in adolescents when they are given in schools.

We know that schools are facing significant challenges this coming school year and we understand that practical difficulties may arise with the schools immunisation programme due to the COVID-19 situation.

It is understood that while some schools may be able to facilitate HSE school teams coming to the school during school hours, for other schools, alternative arrangements may be required. Your support in working with the HSE school teams to find solutions to ensure students can be vaccinated is greatly appreciated.

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, which is particularly important this year.

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 ~~to~~ 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*

Indemnity for any future liability arising from the role which schools currently undertake in the school vaccinations is a matter which would be addressed by the HSE and/or the Department of Health.

The HSE vaccination teams will continue to work with you to ensure vaccination sessions this year take place as efficiently as possible. As always, they adhere to the policies of the school when providing this service. 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

Once again thank you for your support of the schools immunisation programme during these very challenging times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Jessop'.