



Vaccines to protect against HPV, MenACWY and Tdap

Information for parents and students starting secondary school in 2020



About this leaflet

This leaflet is for parents and students, and we hope you read it together.

The HSE school vaccination teams will be offering HPV, Tdap and Men ACWY vaccines to all first year students - boys and girls. These vaccines are usually offered in two visits, one in the first term and one 5 to 6 months later. We need parents and guardians to read, sign and return a short form to show that they agree to their child getting these vaccines. This form is called “Vaccination consent form for children starting first year of secondary school in September 2020.”

This leaflets tells you about:

- The vaccines offered to first year students – what they protect against and the doses needed
- about the school vaccination teams visits
- common questions
- where you can find out more
- the consent form

If you have a question as a parent or as a student about any part of this leaflet, please contact a member of the vaccination team. The phone number of your local team is included in this pack.

The vaccines we offer

A vaccine is a substance that gives immunity (protection) to a particular disease. There are three vaccines being offered to protect from infectious diseases.

The HPV vaccine protects against the HPV virus which can cause cancer in both girls and boys.

The MenACWY vaccine protects against four types of meningococcal disease which can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain) and /or septicaemia (blood poisoning).

Tdap vaccine which protects against:

- tetanus (tetanus toxin can cause painful muscle spasms and convulsions)
- diphtheria (bacteria that can cause a sore throat and severe breathing difficulties) and
- pertussis (a bacteria also known as whooping cough and causes severe coughing and vomiting)



HPV vaccine:
protects
against cancer



**MenACWY
vaccine:** protects
against meningitis



Tdap vaccine:
protects against
harmful bacteria

The school vaccination team visits

The HSE school vaccination teams will visit schools twice to give vaccines to students. The following vaccines are given at each visit

- Visit 1 in the first term: HPV vaccine and Tdap vaccine (2 injections)
- Visit 2 about 6 months later: HPV vaccine and MenACWY vaccine (2 injections)

The HSE school vaccination programme may need to be delivered in a different venue or take longer to deliver because of Covid-19. We will do our best to keep changes to a minimum.

One vaccine is given in **each** arm.

The vaccines - more details about each

Vaccine 1

HPV vaccine – for girls and boys

What is HPV?

HPV stands for 'human papillomavirus', which is a group of more than 100 viruses. The HPV virus is very common; most people will be infected with a form of HPV in their lifetime. You can catch HPV virus by being sexually active with another person who already has the virus. Most HPV infections do not need treatment. However, in some people, the HPV infection can persist and cause cancer. HPV also causes genital warts.

The HPV vaccine protects against cervical cancer and other cancers. The HPV vaccine is called Gardasil 9.

Why is HPV vaccine given?

The HPV vaccine has been offered to girls in first year since 2010. This is because the most common cancer caused by the HPV virus is **cervical cancer** – cancer of the neck of the womb.


However, the HPV virus can cause other cancers and conditions that can affect boys, since September 2019, boys have also been offered the HPV vaccine. The more young people vaccinated – both **boys and girls** – the better the spread of the infection can be controlled.

Which countries give HPV vaccine?


115 countries now have an HPV vaccine programme, with more than 22 of these countries giving the vaccine to boys and girls. These countries include:

- Australia
- New Zealand
- UK
- Italy
- Norway
- US

There is more information about the success of these programmes on www.hpv.ie



**HPV vaccine
is given in more than 100
countries to prevent
cancers**



**The HPV
vaccine is
offered to
boys and
girls in first
year.**

What cancers can HPV cause?

The HPV virus can cause a range of pre-cancerous lesions – abnormal cells – in both men and women. The HPV virus causes:

- almost all cervical cancers
- 5 out of 10 vulval cancers
- 7 out of 10 vaginal cancers
- 9 out of 10 HPV-related anal cancers
- 9 out of 10 incidences of genital warts.

Research has shown HPV infection is also associated with cancers of:

- the mouth and throat (oropharynx)
- the back passage (the rectum)
- the penis



**HPV causes 1 in
20 cancers worldwide**



**Over 300,000 girls in
Ireland and 100 million
people worldwide
have received HPV
vaccine**

How many doses of the HPV vaccine are needed?

Two doses of the vaccine are needed for full protection. Students are offered the first dose in school in the first term and the second dose about 6 months later. First year in secondary school is the best time to get the vaccine, as it is most effective at this age.

Some students may need more

Anyone starting the vaccine programme at 15 years or older needs three doses for full protection.

Vaccine 2

MenACWY Vaccine

What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness which can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning) and can lead to death. There are a number of different types of meningococcal bacteria and all children should have received a vaccine to protect against meningococcal group C when they were babies.

The MenACWY vaccine will boost against meningococcal group C disease. It will also provide additional protection against meningococcal groups A, W and Y. In addition, this vaccine also reduces the risk of carrying the disease so it can help protect other people too. The MenACWY vaccine is called Nimenrix.

This vaccine does not protect against all groups of meningococcal bacteria, e.g. group B, or other bacteria that can cause meningitis, and so it is important that you also know the symptoms to look for and to seek urgent medical attention.

Meningococcal disease can start very suddenly. Symptoms include fever, stiff neck, headache, joint pains and a rash. Meningococcal disease can occur at any age, but the highest rate occurs in children under 5 years of age, especially children under 1 year of age. The next high-risk group are young people aged 15-19 years.

How many doses of the MenACWY vaccine are needed?

Only one dose of Men ACWY vaccine is needed for protection.

Vaccine 3

Tdap Vaccine

What is Tdap?

Tdap stands for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough).

This vaccine protects against harmful bacteria and toxins. The Tdap vaccine is called Boostrix.

Tetanus can cause painful muscle spasms, convulsions and lockjaw (difficulty opening your mouth due to muscle spasms) leading to difficulty breathing and death.

Diphtheria is a serious disease that usually begins with a sore throat and can quickly develop to cause breathing problems. It can also damage the heart and nervous system.

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a disease that can cause long periods of coughing, choking and vomiting that can make it hard to breathe.

All of these infections are serious diseases that could lead to being admitted to hospital. At worst, these conditions can cause death.

How many doses of diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine are needed for full protection?

By six years each child should have received four doses of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine - that is:

- 3 doses as a baby
- a booster dose in Junior Infants

Immunity to these diseases reduces over time a booster dose is recommended to provide additional protection.

A booster is an additional or top-up dose. This is their fifth and final dose and will give them long lasting protection.

Five doses will complete your course



Common questions

- ?** **Can a student wait until older they are older to get HPV, MenACWY or Tdap vaccines?**
The HSE school programme offers HPV, MenACWY and Tdap vaccines to students in first year of secondary school. If you choose to wait until older to get vaccinated, you will need to get your child vaccinated through your GP (local doctor) and you will have to pay an administration fee and for the vaccines
- ?** **Will I get a record of the vaccines given?**
Yes. On the day of vaccination, immunisation passports will be updated by the school vaccination team. If you do not have an immunisation passport, a member of the immunisation team will give one after the vaccination.
- ?** **How can students prepare for vaccination day?**
On the day of vaccination, students should:
- Eat breakfast
 - Wear a loose-fitting short-sleeved top
- ?** **How do we know vaccines are safe?**
All vaccines are safe and have been proven to save lives and prevent serious illness. Vaccines are strictly monitored and reviewed regularly by international bodies including:
- the World Health Organization
 - the European Medicines Agency
 - the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA
- All international bodies have continually reported that the vaccines used in Ireland are safe with no known long-term side effects.
- ?** **Do the vaccines have short-term side effects?**
Most students have no problems after vaccines.
- Some students can have an area of soreness, swelling and redness in their arm where the injection was given.
- Some students may get a headache, feel sick in their tummy or run a slight temperature. This is nothing to worry about as this usually passes after a day or two.
- ?** **Do the vaccines have long-term side effects?**
There are no documented long-term side effects.

Where you can get more information

If you have any questions, please discuss them with a member of your HSE school immunisation team, your public health nurse or your GP (doctor). You can find contact details of the immunisation team in this pack.



Gardasil 9

You can also visit www.hpv.ie and www.immunisation.ie for videos and fact sheets about the vaccines. We encourage you to read the "Facts about Vaccines for students starting secondary school in 2020" on our website.



Nimenrix

You can also find links to the patient information leaflets for the vaccines at www.hpra.ie. Search for Gardasil 9 (HPV), Nimenrix (MenACWY) or Boostrix (Tdap) or scan the QR code to read the relevant patient information leaflet.



Boostrix

The consent form for vaccines

You need to read and sign the consent form in this pack and return it to the school to make sure your child receives the vaccines in school. You can use the envelope provided to return the form to the school.



بېتاكلل حاقل HPV ، Tdap و MenacW
ىلع بېرغلة لىلل اب رفوتم (ايحسلا باهتلا)
www.immunisation.ie عقوم

Brochure sur les vaccins contre le HPV, le Tdap et le MenACWY (Meningite) est disponible en français sur le site web www.immunisation.ie

HPV-, Tdap- und MenACWY-Impfstoffbroschüre (Meningitis) ist in deutscher Sprache im Internet erhältlich Website www.immunisation.ie

Brozura dotycząca szczepionek HPV, Tdap i MenACWY (Zapalenie opon mózgowo-rdzeniowych) jest dostępne w języku polskim na stronie strona internetowa www.immunisation.ie

Brochura de Vacinas HPV, Tdap e MenACWY (Meningite) está disponível em Português no website www.immunisation.ie

HPV, Tdap și MenACWY Vaccine Brochure (Meningita) este disponibil în limba română pe site-ul www.immunisation.ie

Брошюра о вакцинах против ВПЧ, Tdap и MenACWY (Менингит) доступен на русском языке на веб-сайт www.immunisation.ie

HPV , Tdap和MenACWY疫苗手册 (脑膜炎) 有简体中文版 网站www.immunisation.ie

