



Immunisation Taskforce

May 2024





Purpose and working groups

This taskforce was formed in November 2023 at the request of the Department of Health due to:

- HSE not achieving WHO targets of 95% uptake for childhood immunisations
- Concerns about declining uptake of childhood immunisations
- Pockets of low uptake areas across the country
- Challenges in improving uptake among Refugees and Applicants Seeking Protection
- Concerns of a possible measles outbreak

Chaired by Dr John Cuddihy, National Director of Public Health and David Walsh, National Director of Health Regions

3 Subgroups

Data and SOP subgroup

Communications Subgroup

Primary Care Subgroup



Work to date

Data and SOP subgroup

- **National Standardised approach for children who have missed vaccines:**
Developed a national Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure a standardised approach for the follow up of children who have missed vaccine uptake including the development of a suite of communication tools
- **Reporting:**
Identify and make recommendations with regards to consistent reporting practices

Communications Subgroup

- Healthcare professionals
ICGP Webinar
Practice Nurses Conferences X 4
Letter with Child Health to RCPI
Paeds Faculty
- Communities
Work with Cairde information shared on health connect app
Work with NSIO on Roma education project and travelling community to address vaccine hesitancy
- Public facing
European immunisation week
Review of letter to parents of children late for vaccination
During summer months will use social media to remind of importance of vaccination

Primary Care Subgroup

- Supporting the development of the National SOP
- Working with GPs and GP representatives to promote vaccine uptake and prompt follow up for those who are not up to date with their schedule



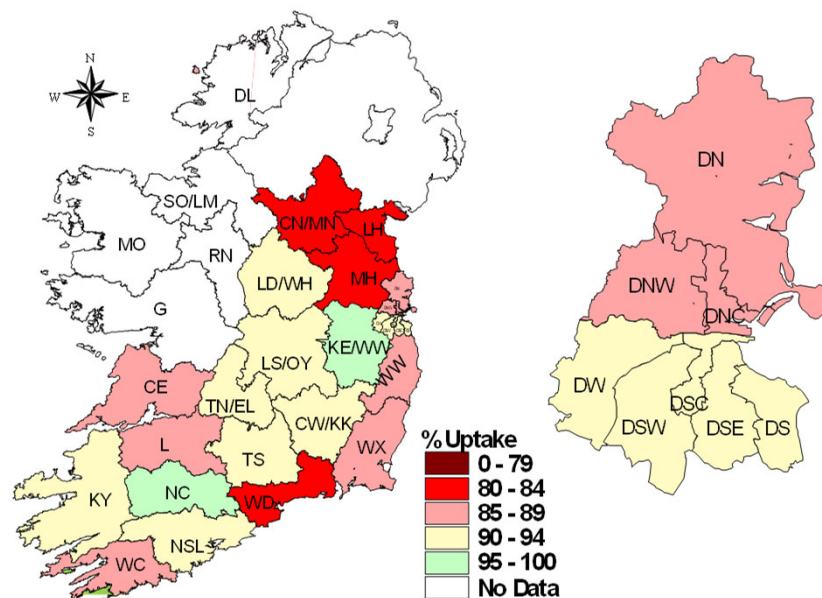
Current Immunisation Uptake

Immunisation uptake rates in children 24 months of age in Q3 2023

92.7% for 6 in 1 vaccine dose 3
89.9% for MMR dose 1
87.7% for Hib booster
82.2% for Hib dose 4
82.0% for MenC dose 2
87.1% for MenC booster
83.1% for PCV dose 3
85.5% for PCV booster
87.4% for MenB dose 3
90.2% for MenB complete
89.6% for Rota dose 2

Q3 2023. Data from HPSC

MMR1 immunisation uptake rates (%) by LHO, in those 24 months of age in Quarter 3-2023, in (A) Ireland and (B) Dublin.





Development of a National SOP “How children who have missed vaccines are followed-up”

May 2024





Meet the team

Mary O'Kelly (Chair), Chief Officer, Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare (CHO 7)

Caralyn Horne (Deputy Chair), Head of Service, National Covid Operations

Liz Kelso, Community & Primary Care Strategy

Dr Michael Hanrahan, Specialist Registrar Public Health Medicine

Ann Martin, National Communications Division

Dr Lucy Jessop, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, National Immunisation lead, National Immunisation Office (NIO)

Stefan Cullinan, Programme Support National Covid Operations

Sean McArt, General Manager Primary Care Operations

Sabrina Byrne, General Manager National Covid Operations

Christine White, Senior Epidemiologist NIO

Yvonne Morrissey, Business Project Manager NIO

Carmel Cullen, HSE Live



Current PCI and Communications Schedule

		Birth	1 week	2 weeks	6 weeks	2 months	3 months	4 months	5 months	6 months	7-11 months	12 months	13 months	14 months	15 months	16 months	17 months	18 months	19-25 months	26 months	27-37 months	38 months
A	Recommended Immunisation Timing (PCI Schedule)																					
B	Immunisation Uptake Data Extraction Timing																					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 month uptake report 24 month uptake report (36 month) Bonus Payment Cut-off 																					
1	Immunisation Office receives Birth Notification and includes child in Immunisation Database																					
2	Public Health Nurse shares information about Immunisations																					
3	Parents visit GP for 2 and 6 week check and are given information about Immunisations																					
4	Letter to Parents informing them of Immunisations																					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation Letter at 6 weeks Reminder Letter at 12 months 																					
5	GPs informed of children in their practice with overdue vaccines																					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LHO sends GPs a list of children who have missed vaccines by more than 3 months 																					
6	Public Health Nurse contacts parents of children who have missed vaccines (where available)																					

*Continuous processes:

- GP Practices return information regarding those who have been vaccinated/formally refused vaccination on a regular basis (ideally monthly or as they arise)
- Immunisation Office inputs data as it is received into the Immunisation Database and queries any potential data errors with the relevant GP Practice

Please note: the colours in the above schedule are for illustrative purposes only – to assist with distinguishing between the rows.



Overview

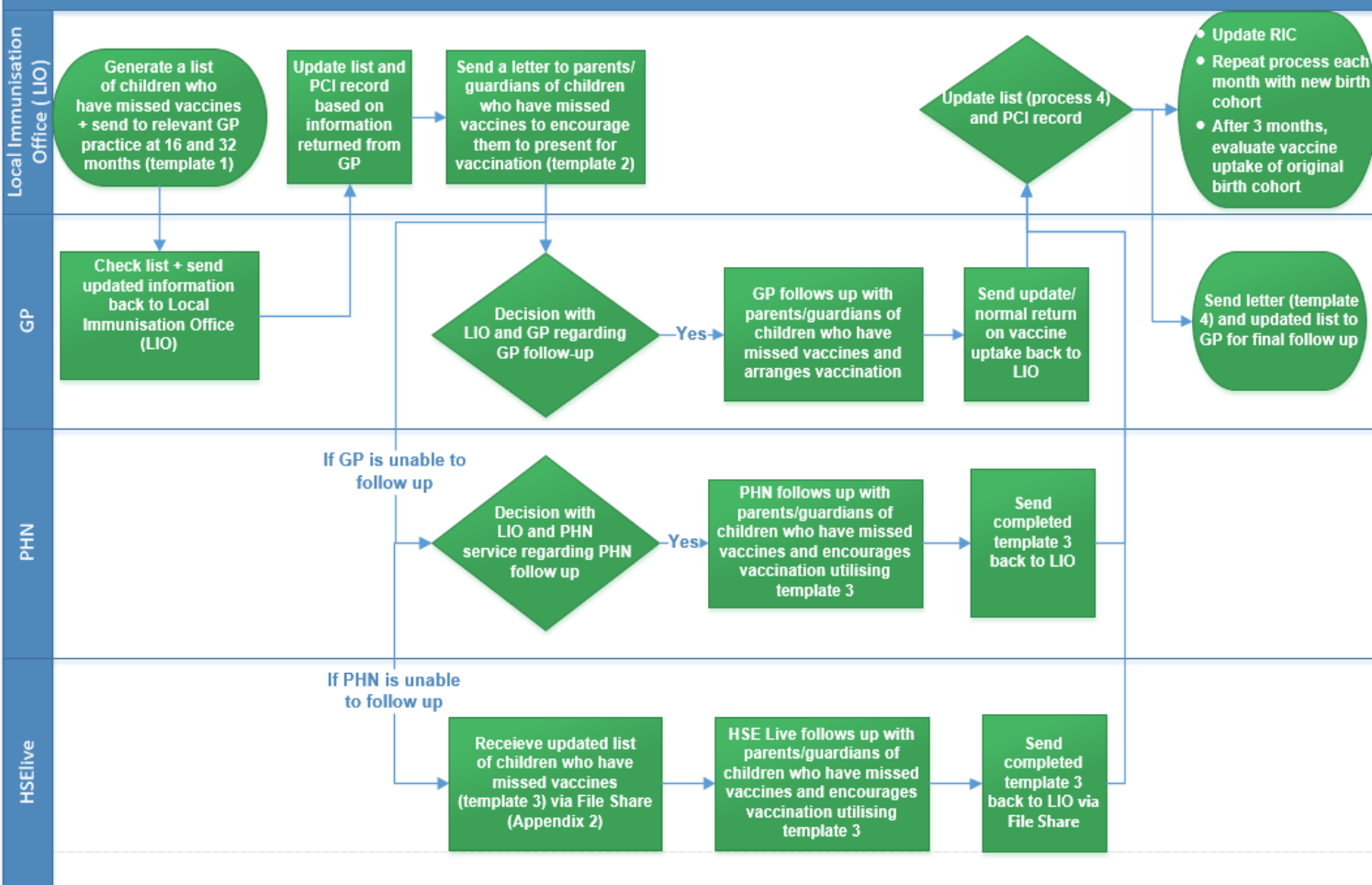
- This SOP has been developed to standardise the procedure for how children who have missed vaccines are followed-up. This includes standardisation of when and how GPs and Parents are reminded about vaccinations
- All current existing processes in relation to standard invitations and reminders for childhood vaccinations must continue
- If you are already doing something similar to what this SOP proposes, or you are doing more than what it proposes, then we advise that you continue your current process. The SOP is intended to standardise the follow-up process in areas currently without some of these measures.

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Process for following-up children who have missed vaccines on the Primary Childhood Immunisation (PCI) schedule





Development of SOP

6.1 Template 1: Letter to GP with list of children

Insert HSE/CHO Letterhead

Insert GP Practice name and address

Dear GP/Practice Nurse/Practice Manager

Pls see attached a list of children who according to our records have missed or have not completed their Primary Childhood Vaccine as per the appropriate schedule.

I would be grateful if you could review the attached list and advise me by return of any inaccuracies or necessary updates required (e.g. vaccinated, refused, moved address, will be vaccinated in the future).

I will be writing to the parents/guardians of these children to inform them and to encourage them to make contact with you to avail of the recommended vaccines.

We will also be phoning parents/guardians to encourage them to bring their child to your practice for their recommended vaccines.

If you would prefer for us not to contact the parents/guardians directly, please also advise by return.

Yours sincerely

Insert name and title

Encl: List of children
xxxxx

6.2 Template 2: Letter to parents

Insert HSE/CHO Letterhead

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of:
xxxxx Client DOB: xx/xx/xxxx
client ID: xxxxx
Nominated GP (if known): xxxxx

Date: 9 May 2024

Re: Your baby's vaccinations

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our records show that your baby has not had all of their recommended childhood vaccines yet. These are the records that we have for your baby:

Age the vaccine was due:	Vaccine	Date Received	No Record Available
2 months	6-in-1	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MenB	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
	PCV	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Rotavirus	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 months	6-in-1	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MenB	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Rotavirus	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 months	6-in-1	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
	PCV	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MenB	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 months	The Rotavirus vaccine is not given to babies once they've turned 8 months.		
	MMR	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MenB	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 months	Hib/MenC	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>
	PCV	__/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/>

These vaccines help prevent the spread of infections and are free of charge to all children from your GP.

If our records are incorrect, or if you have changed your GP, please call us on xxxxxxxx so that we can update our files.

If you need to schedule your baby's vaccines, you can contact your GP practice today and make an appointment. If you can, bring the immunisation passport to each appointment. Your GP will give you a record of vaccination.

If you have any questions about your baby's vaccines, talk to your GP or call us on xxxxxxxx. The HSE website www.immunisation.ie also has information on childhood vaccinations.

Yours sincerely,

Dr xxxxx
Area Director of Public Health – HSE xxxxx
See below/next page for Vaccine Abbreviations

Vaccine Abbreviations 6-in-1 - Diphtheria, haemophilus (0000000000 type b (Hib), hepatitis B, acellular pertussis, inactivated polio, tetanus vaccine MenB - Meningococcal B recombinant vaccine Rotavirus - Rotavirus oral vaccine	PCV - Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine MenC - Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine MMR - Measles, mumps, rubella vaccine Hib/MenC - Haemophilus (0000000000 type b/meningococcal C conjugate vaccine
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- No answer
- Not available to speak at this time – Call Back
- Incorrect number / number not ringing
- Does not want vaccination at this time
- Has or will make appointment with GP
- Unwilling to proceed with call
- Child not well at this time – will follow up
- Said they received all vaccines
- Child out of the country

- **Incorrect Number/Number not ringing** - LIO follow up with GP practice to determine if an alternative contact is available
- **Has or will make an appointment with GP or Child not well at this time** - LIO to follow up with GP practice to advise of same (template letter below)
- **Said they received all vaccines** - LIO check records and update system accordingly. If no record of vaccines received, GP is advised. If child on another immunisation system (has moved) – record that the child has moved, and send record to the new area
- **Parents/Guardians have declined vaccine** - inform GP

Encl: Updated Excel List of Children, with notes for the GP added in column Z (Template 3)



Pilot Results

The SOP was piloted in parts of CHO 4, 7 and 9. Letters were sent to parents of children who were identified to have missing vaccines at age 16-17 months and phone follow-up was conducted by HSE Live.

Combined results CHO4 and 9

Number of children identified for follow-up: 58

Number successfully contacted: 40 (69%)

Number with incorrect Address: 4 (7%)

Number with incorrect GP: 6 (10%)

Number who are actually up-to-date with vaccines: 9 (16%)

Number who indicated that they have or will make an appointment with their GP to accept vaccines: 20 (34%)

Number who refused vaccination: 2 (3%)

Number who did not answer: 14 (24%)



Populating excel file

This new process is only required if your database is not capable of producing letters to parents directly and if you are referring the children to HSE Live for follow-up. If you are able to produce letters and provide phone follow-up using existing resources then you do not need to follow this method.

Ensure that all available immunisation returns for the birth cohort in question is inputted in to your database before data extraction.

Data regarding children who missed vaccines who aged 16-17 months and 32-33 months should be extracted from your immunisation database in excel format.

The data will need to be transcribed (copied and pasted) into the provided excel file.



Populating excel file

Variables required for the excel file are:

- System ID
- First Name
- Surname
- DOB
- Address
- Parent's Name (x2)
- Parent's Phone Number (x2)
- GP
- Which Vaccines were missed

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet titled "6.3 Template 3 for Children who missed vaccines - Excel". The spreadsheet has columns labeled A through N. The first row (row 1) contains the following headers: ID, First Name, Surname, DOB, Address1, Address2, Address3, Town, County, EirCode, Parent's Name (1), Parent's Phone Number (1), and Parent's Name (2). The second row (row 2) is empty. The third row (row 3) is empty. The fourth row (row 4) is empty. The fifth row (row 5) is empty. The sixth row (row 6) is empty. The seventh row (row 7) is empty. The eighth row (row 8) is empty. The ninth row (row 9) is empty. The tenth row (row 10) is empty. The eleventh row (row 11) is empty. The twelfth row (row 12) is empty. The thirteenth row (row 13) is empty. The fourteenth row (row 14) is empty. The fifteenth row (row 15) is empty. The sixteenth row (row 16) is empty. The seventeenth row (row 17) is empty. The eighteenth row (row 18) is empty. The nineteenth row (row 19) is empty. The twentieth row (row 20) is empty. The twenty-first row (row 21) is empty. The twenty-second row (row 22) is empty. The twenty-third row (row 23) is empty. The twenty-fourth row (row 24) is empty. The twenty-fifth row (row 25) is empty. The twenty-sixth row (row 26) is empty. The twenty-seventh row (row 27) is empty. The twenty-eighth row (row 28) is empty. The twenty-ninth row (row 29) is empty. The thirtieth row (row 30) is empty. The thirty-first row (row 31) is empty. The thirty-second row (row 32) is empty. The thirty-third row (row 33) is empty. The thirty-fourth row (row 34) is empty. The thirty-fifth row (row 35) is empty. The thirty-sixth row (row 36) is empty. The thirty-seventh row (row 37) is empty. The thirty-eighth row (row 38) is empty. The thirty-ninth row (row 39) is empty. The fortieth row (row 40) is empty. The forty-first row (row 41) is empty. The forty-second row (row 42) is empty. The forty-third row (row 43) is empty. The forty-fourth row (row 44) is empty. The forty-fifth row (row 45) is empty. The forty-sixth row (row 46) is empty. The forty-seventh row (row 47) is empty. The forty-eighth row (row 48) is empty. The forty-ninth row (row 49) is empty. The fiftieth row (row 50) is empty. The fifty-first row (row 51) is empty. The fifty-second row (row 52) is empty. The fifty-third row (row 53) is empty. The fifty-fourth row (row 54) is empty. The fifty-fifth row (row 55) is empty. The fifty-sixth row (row 56) is empty. The fifty-seventh row (row 57) is empty. The fifty-eighth row (row 58) is empty. The fifty-ninth row (row 59) is empty. The sixtieth row (row 60) is empty. The sixty-first row (row 61) is empty. The sixty-second row (row 62) is empty. The sixty-third row (row 63) is empty. The sixty-fourth row (row 64) is empty. The sixty-fifth row (row 65) is empty. The sixty-sixth row (row 66) is empty. The sixty-seventh row (row 67) is empty. The sixty-eighth row (row 68) is empty. The sixty-ninth row (row 69) is empty. The seventieth row (row 70) is empty. The seventy-first row (row 71) is empty. The seventy-second row (row 72) is empty. The seventy-third row (row 73) is empty. The seventy-fourth row (row 74) is empty. The seventy-fifth row (row 75) is empty. The seventy-sixth row (row 76) is empty. The seventy-seventh row (row 77) is empty. The seventy-eighth row (row 78) is empty. The seventy-ninth row (row 79) is empty. The eightieth row (row 80) is empty. The eighty-first row (row 81) is empty. The eighty-second row (row 82) is empty. The eighty-third row (row 83) is empty. The eighty-fourth row (row 84) is empty. The eighty-fifth row (row 85) is empty. The eighty-sixth row (row 86) is empty. The eighty-seventh row (row 87) is empty. The eighty-eighth row (row 88) is empty. The eighty-ninth row (row 89) is empty. The ninetieth row (row 90) is empty. The ninety-first row (row 91) is empty. The ninety-second row (row 92) is empty. The ninety-third row (row 93) is empty. The ninety-fourth row (row 94) is empty. The ninety-fifth row (row 95) is empty. The ninety-sixth row (row 96) is empty. The ninety-seventh row (row 97) is empty. The ninety-eighth row (row 98) is empty. The ninety-ninth row (row 99) is empty. The hundredth row (row 100) is empty.



Support from HSELive

Administrators wishing to use the services of HSELive, should contact HSELive by emailing maria.mccourt@hse.ie and copying carmel.cullen@hse.ie who will arrange a shared folder for information sharing purposes for the workstream.

Step 1: Navigate to your target folder within sharefile

Step 2: Within the folder you will see a blue circle with a plus, click here it will expand to give options and 'upload' a file

Step 3: Files option will be present and you can drag or upload your file to here.

Step 4: Choose your desired file example shown below

Step 5: The options shown below will appear and you will choose 'upload'. This can be cancelled at this stage if the wrong file was chosen.

Result:

- The process is complete, excel is now in folder

