



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

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Reference Number:** S0057-NCO-23

**RE: MMR Catch-up Programme Winter 2023**

Dear Doctor,

In response to concerns regarding the rising numbers of measles cases internationally and the associated risk of measles outbreaks occurring in Ireland, the HSE is now offering an opportunity for General Practitioners with capacity to opt-in to an MMR Catch-up Programme for your unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated patients aged 10 years old and younger this Winter 2023.

**Background**

Measles cases are rising internationally and already this year in Europe there have been more cases of measles reported than in the whole of 2022.

Uptake rates of MMR vaccine in Ireland are currently below the rates recommended by WHO to prevent measles from spreading. Getting the MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent the spread of measles. Two doses of the vaccine are required for full protection. Over 99% of those who receive two doses of measles vaccine  $\geq 12$  months of age and  $\geq 4$  weeks apart will develop measles immunity which is lifelong in most people.

According to Quarter 2 2023 data published by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC), the immunisation uptake rate for MMR1 for children at 24 months of age (at 89.2%), was below 90% (88.8-89.8%) for the sixth consecutive quarter (Q1 2022-Q2 2023). HPSC data from the 2020/21 academic year also reveals that MMR uptake in Junior Infants and children aged 4-5 years in Ireland has reduced.

**MMR Catch-up Programme**

Those eligible for MMR vaccination under the programme are:

- **Children aged between 14 months and 10 years old inclusive who did not receive the MMR vaccine when they were 12 months old, and/or age 4-5 years old in junior infants.**

If General Practitioners have capacity and wish to partake in the programme, you can visit the NIO website at [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie) for supporting materials [i.e., Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for healthcare professionals and an Information Leaflet for parents of children eligible for the MMR Catch-up Programme].

Payment for MMR vaccines administered to those eligible can be claimed in accordance with the fee structure and fee rates set out in the attached 'Appendix 1: Fees Payable to GPs who Participate in Vaccination Catch-up Campaign: November 2023.'

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to General Practitioners and your teams for your ongoing support of immunisation programmes.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Lucy Jessop

Consultant in Public Health Medicine – National Immunisation Lead

National Immunisation Office MRCN 424447



## **Appendix 1: Fees Payable to GPs who participate in Vaccination Catch-up Campaign**

The following fee structure and fee rates will apply under existing Regulations where a PCIP contract holder administers MMR catch up vaccinations to children aged between 14 months and 10 years (inclusive) in accordance with NIAC guidelines. The fee rates set out hereunder are in line with those set out in S.I 692 (2019).

### **MMR**

A fee of **€36.03** is payable where a participating GP administers an MMR original dose to a child aged between 14 months and 10 years.

A fee of **€36.03** is also payable where a participating GP administers an MMR booster dose to a child aged between 14 months and 10 years.

Participating GPs should forward immunisation returns to the relevant Local HSE office in the same manner as they currently do for vaccinations issued to children under 2 years of age under the Primary Childhood Immunisation Programme.

Dated: 22nd November, 2023