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February 2023

Re: The Laura Brennan HPV Vaccination Catch-up Programme

Dear Parent, Guardian or Student,

In this letter you will find information about the Laura Brennan HPV Vaccination Catch-up Programme. The HSE is offering young people another chance to protect themselves from HPV, by receiving the HPV vaccine, if they were not vaccinated when they were offered it previously. This opportunity is available in 2023 for eligible people to get the HPV vaccine.

Who is being offered this vaccine?

The HPV (Human Papillomavirus) catch-up vaccination is being offered to:

- Females (currently in 2nd year – 6th year) who have not received the HPV vaccine
- Males (currently in 2nd year – 4th year (5th year if they did not do transition year)) who have not received the HPV vaccine

Students (both male and female) currently in 1st year are being offered HPV vaccination this year as part of the routine school immunisation schedule.

How many doses are needed?

The recommendations of the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) about the number of HPV vaccine doses needed has recently changed. Most students only need to receive **one dose** of HPV vaccine (if your child has a weak immune system they will need 3 doses). Please visit www.hpv.ie for more information.

What to do if you/your child has already received the HPV vaccine

If your child has already received at least one dose of the HPV vaccine they do not need another dose of the vaccine. If they have a weak immune system and they did not complete the HPV vaccine course when they were offered it, please contact the school vaccination team.

How do I get my child/myself vaccinated?

If your child is 15 years old or younger and eligible for the Laura Brennan HPV Vaccination Catch-up Programme please contact the vaccination team in your area. The contact details for the team are available on www.hpv.ie.

Young people aged 16 years and over may register themselves for the Laura Brennan HPV Vaccination Catch-up Programme on www.hpv.ie.

When will the vaccine be given?

The HSE vaccination team may visit your school to give the vaccine or invite you to an immunisation clinic.

If you have any questions or concerns, members of the school vaccination team are happy to help. The contact numbers for the vaccination teams are available on www.hpv.ie.

Further information is also available on www.immunisation.ie and www.hpv.ie

Yours sincerely

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