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an Mhainéir
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www.hpv.ie
[Twitter](#), [Instagram](#),
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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

Dr Lucy Jessop
Consultant in Public Health Medicine – National Immunisation Lead
National Immunisation Office
MRCN 424447

Tuesday 28th March 2023

The Laura Brennan HPV Catch- Up Vaccination Programme

Dear Principal

I am writing to you regarding the Laura Brennan HPV Catch-Up vaccination programme. This programme is designed to offer students in secondary school who previously declined vaccination, a second chance to receive the HPV Gardasil 9 vaccine in HSE clinics. The HPV vaccine protects against the human papilloma virus which is linked to several types of cancers. Most students will require only one dose. Those with underlying medical problems and weakened immune systems may require more than one dose. The programme will run until the end of 2023.

The vaccine is available to the following students:

- Female students from 2nd year to 6th year who have not received the HPV vaccine previously
- Male students from 2nd year to 4th year or 5th year (if they did not do transition year) who have not yet received the HPV vaccine. These male students would have commenced first year in September 2019.
- Older male students unfortunately are not currently eligible for the programme.

Parents and students may book an appointment by logging onto www.hpv.ie and locating their nearest HSE clinic. If parents and students are experiencing difficulty in securing an appointment they can contact **South Lee Schools and Immunisation team on (021) 4923281**. We will running two clinics in the North Main Street Vaccination Centre in Cork city in April and will plan further clinics in the coming months.

Please also find enclosed additional supportive correspondence from Dr Lucy Jessop of the National Immunisation Office and a letter for circulation to parents /guardians / students, promoting the uptake of the HPV vaccine.

We ask for your assistance in communicating and circulating this information to parents / guardians and students in your school. Please feel free to contact me on breda.forbes@hse.ie if you have any queries or questions.

Yours sincerely

Breda Caroline Forbes

Interim Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing

South Lee Schools & Immunisation Department

St Finbarr's Hospital Cork