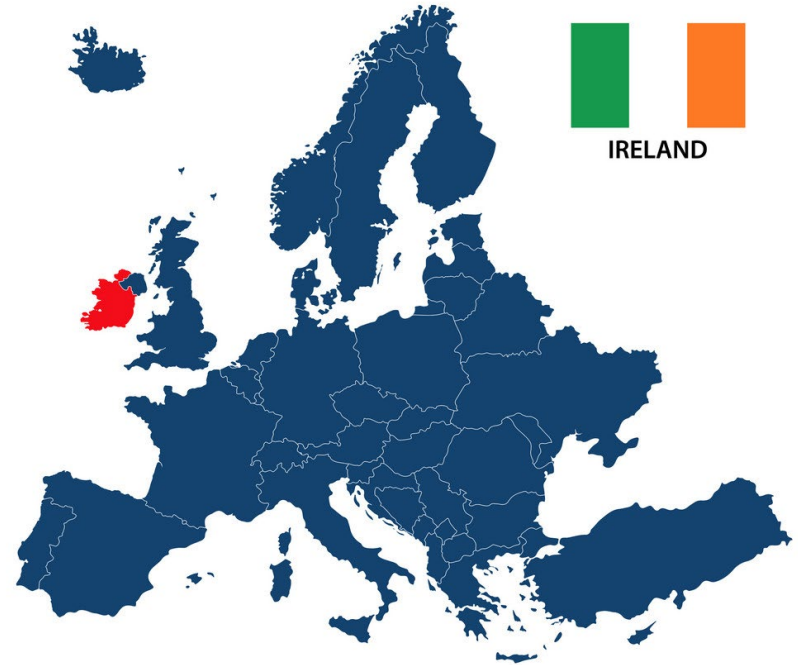

How to communicate transition to one dose strategy– Ireland experience

Dr Treasa Kelleher
Specialist in Public Health Medicine
National Immunisation Office
Ireland



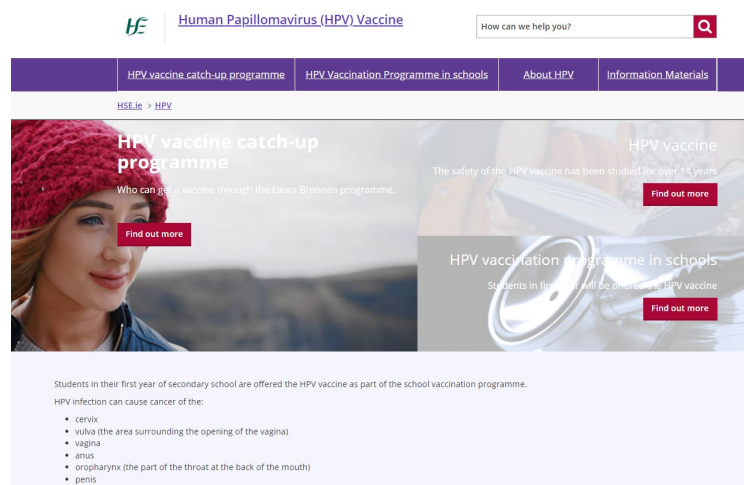
Ireland

- Country in West of Europe
- Population 5 million
- Main language is English



HPV Vaccination Programme

- Started in 2010
- School based programme
- 12-13 year old girls (~30,000)
- Parents sent information leaflet, consent form and contact details for school teams
- Referred to website www.hpv.ie for more information
- Uptake 81-89% from 2010-2015



Changes

- Programme gender neutral since 2019



The screenshot shows the top of a news article on The Irish Times website. The header includes the site name, a temperature of 16°C, and a 'Subscribe' button. Below the header, a yellow banner states: 'You have 2 free articles left this week. Try unlimited access just for €1 first month. [Subscribe](#) or [Sign in](#)'. The article title is 'Why boys need to be vaccinated for HPV' with a subtitle 'Gender-neutral HPV vaccine can help to eradicate cancers for future generations'. Below the text is a photo of a hand holding a syringe of Gardasil vaccine against a background of purple virus-like particles. To the right of the photo is a 'LATEST STORIES' sidebar with several news items.

THE IRISH TIMES 16° [Subscribe](#)

You have 2 free articles left this week. Try unlimited access just for €1 first month. [Subscribe](#) or [Sign in](#)

Why boys need to be vaccinated for HPV

Gender-neutral HPV vaccine can help to eradicate cancers for future generations

Expand

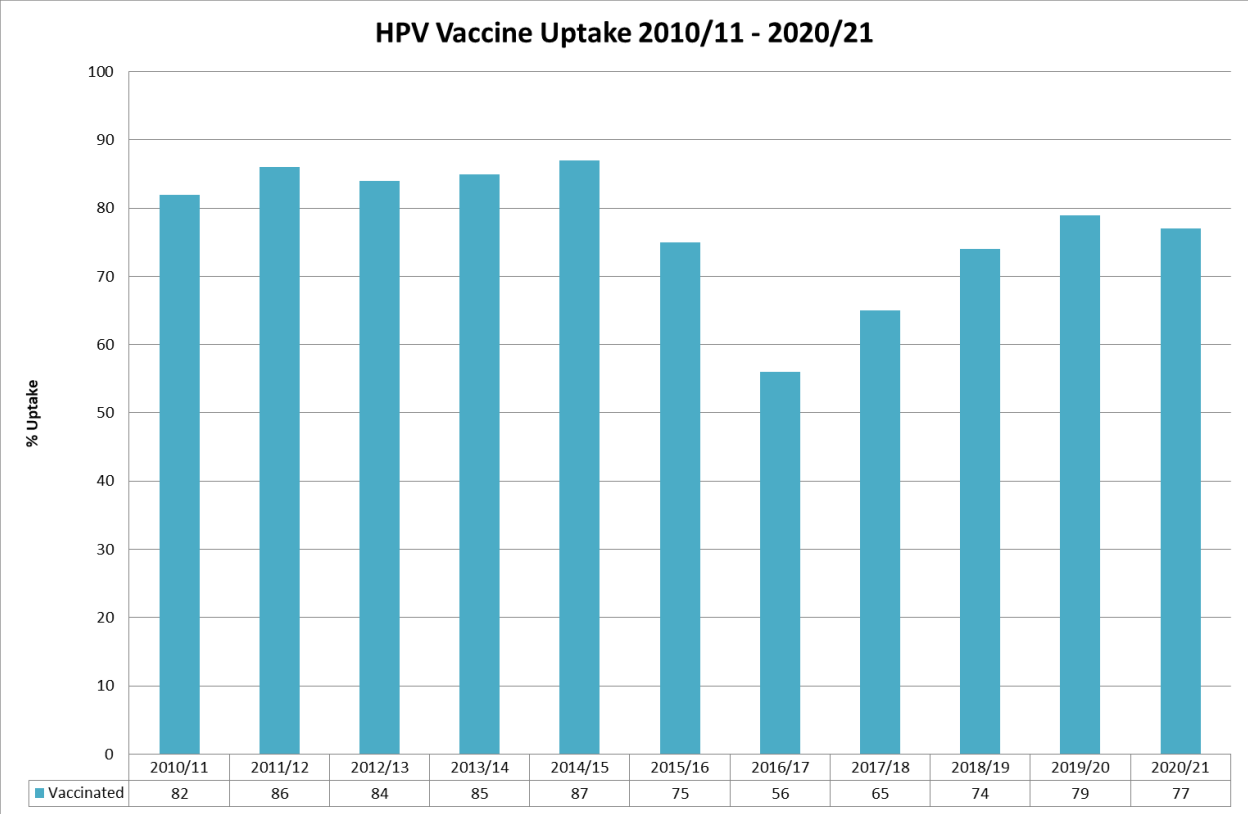


LATEST STORIES >

- LIVE US PGA Championship: Day Two
- Enoch Burke was validly suspended by Wilson's Hospital school, judge rules
- Retained firefighters to serve notice of industrial action in dispute over pay structure
- Saudi Arabia in talks over €185m sponsorship of African Super League
- US raises concerns over rise in sectarian attacks in India



HPV Vaccine Uptake



Over
550,000
vaccinated



Move to single dose

- Research done by our NITAG and advice released in September 2022 that Ireland should move to 1 dose HPV vaccine for those aged under 25 years old (3 doses if immunocompromised)

Reference:

https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_05f2af2c-4e80-4439-acb7-ab759fb73ca8/



National Immunisation Advisory
Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING HPV VACCINE DOSAGE

NIAC | 06.09.2022



Communication – Stakeholder Engagement

Shared information with

- National Screening Service
- Irish Cancer Society
- HPRA
- GPs, Practice Nurses, Pharmacists
- School Vaccination Teams

HPV Frequently Asked Questions

Human papillomavirus vaccine Frequently Asked Questions for Health Professionals

What is HPV? +

How is HPV spread? +

What is the burden of HPV disease in Ireland? +

HPV Vaccine

What is HPV vaccine? +

What HPV vaccines are licensed? +

When did the HPV vaccination programme start in Ireland? +

Why is Gardasil 9 offered to boys? +



Communication - Parents

- First year programme launched as 2 dose programme in August 2022
- Asked National Consent Group for guidance
- In November 2022 wrote to all parents to tell them that only a single dose is now needed and that they did not need to withdraw consent, we would now only provide a single dose.



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www.immunisation.ie
[Twitter](#), [Instagram](#),
[YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#)

December 2022

**Re: HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Vaccination Programme for first year pupils -
reduction in the number of vaccine doses needed**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You recently received an information pack about your child's school vaccinations. In that pack, we shared that the HSE school vaccination team will visit schools twice during the school year to offer the following vaccines:

- **HPV** (Human papillomavirus) vaccine which protects against cancers
- **Tdap** vaccine which protects against tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough (pertussis)
- **MenACWY** (Meningococcal) vaccine which protects against meningococcal types A, C, W and Y, which can cause meningitis and septicaemia.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) has recently issued updated advice about the number of doses of HPV vaccine needed.

NIAC now recommend:

- **One dose of HPV vaccine** for people aged 9-24 years of age.
- **Three doses of HPV vaccine** for people who are **immunocompromised** (have a weak immune system)

What does this change mean for your child?

If you returned a completed consent form this school year and consented for your child to get HPV vaccine – your child will only need to get **one dose of HPV vaccine**. You do not need to contact the school team to withdraw consent. If your child has a weak immune system they may need three HPV vaccine doses. Please visit www.hpv.ie for more information on which children with weak immune systems need three HPV vaccine doses and if this applies to your child, contact the school immunisation team for a new consent form.

Why has the advice changed about the number of doses of HPV vaccine needed?

The NIAC changed their advice about the number of HPV vaccine doses needed because of recent scientific evidence. This evidence shows that in people aged up to 25 years old with healthy immune systems, there is no major difference in the effectiveness of the vaccine between people who get one, two or three doses of HPV vaccine.



Catch Up Programme

- Launched the Laura Brennan HPV Catch Up Vaccination Programme on 8th December 2022



HSE National Immunisation Office (NIO) ✓
@HSEImm

Today, we launch the Laura Brennan HPV Catch-Up Vaccination Programme with the parents of [@laura_jbrennan](#), [@DonnellyStephen](#) and [@CMOIreland](#)

[#ThankYouLaura](#) [#ProtectOurFuture](#) [hpv.ie](#)



[www.hpv.ie](#)
HSE National Immunisation Office
December 2022



10:29 AM · Dec 8, 2022



Communication – Media

Press release

Minister for Health announces commencement of the Laura Brennan HPV Vaccination Catch-Up Programme

From [Department of Health](#)

Published on 8 December 2022

Last updated on 13 December 2022



Catch-up programme launched for those who missed HPV vaccine

Updated / Thursday, 8 Dec 2022 11:43



The catch-up programme is being launched in memory of Laura Brennan, who died from cervical cancer at the age of 26



Communication – Webinar

- Held in January to support health and care professionals



Lunch and Learn Series 2023

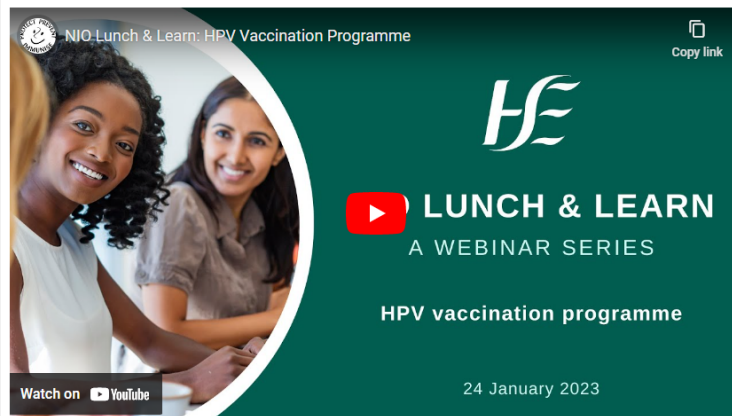
NIO Lunch and Learn Series 2023

HPV Vaccine - 24 January 2023

On 24th January 2023, the NIO held a Lunch & Learn webinar for health and care professionals on the HPV vaccine - the HPV vaccination programme and the Laura Brennan HPV vaccination catch-up programme. Download the slides on

- > [HPV vaccine](#) - from Dr Lucy Jessop, Director of the NIO and Consultant in Public Health Medicine – National Immunisations Lead
- > [Efficacy, effectiveness & immunogenicity of a single dose of HPV vaccine in 9-14 year olds](#) - from Dr Margaret Brennan, Specialist Registrar in Public Health Medicine
- > [Share key messages and become a HPV vaccine champion](#) - from Ms Yvonne Morrissey, Business Project Manager at NIO

You can also watch a video of the webinar below.



Communication – Web Content

- Updated www.hpv.ie

Vaccine dosage

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) have updated their advice about the number of HPV vaccine doses young people need to receive.

People with healthy immune systems now only need one dose of HPV vaccine.

The reason for this change is that recent scientific evidence did not show a big difference in the effectiveness of the HPV vaccine in people with healthy immune systems, aged 9 to 24 years, who received one, two or three doses of the [HPV vaccine](#).

HSE school vaccination teams will visit schools twice in students' first year of secondary school.

Boys and girls will get 3 injections in total, over 2 different visits:

- Visit 1 from the end of September: HPV vaccine and Tdap vaccine.
- Visit 2 from February: MenACWY vaccine.

One vaccine is given in each arm.

Vaccine dosage for people with a weak immune system (immunocompromise)

The NIAC recommend that people who have a weak immune system due to:

- having medical conditions such as HIV infection, haematopoietic stem cell or solid organ transplant recipients, malignant haematological disorders affecting the bone marrow or lymphatic systems, non-haematological malignant solid tumours, or primary immunodeficiency)
- Taking certain medications that really reduce the strength of their immune system

will need to get 3 doses of the HPV vaccine.

If you think that you or your child may need to get 3 doses of the HPV vaccine because of having a weak immune system, please speak to the Specialist Doctor or Consultant treating you. They will be able to discuss with you if you need 3 HPV vaccine doses (more information for your doctor is available [here](#)). You should also speak with the HSE vaccination team and let them know about your discussion with your doctor.



Communication – Web Content

- Used International HPV Awareness Day to again remind the programme moved to 1 dose

Blog: International HPV Awareness Day

International HPV Awareness Day: Protect Your Future, Get the HPV Vaccine.

This Saturday **4th March 2023** marks **International HPV Awareness Day**.

We spoke to our Director Dr Lucy Jessop, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, about what HPV is and how the HPV vaccine can save lives.

First of all, what is HPV?

HPV stands for 'human papillomavirus', which is group of over 100 viruses.

HPV is very common. In fact, most people will be infected with some form of HPV during their life – most commonly when people are in their late teens or early 20s.

How serious is HPV infection?

For most HPV infections, people recover without treatment. However, in some people, HPV infection can lead to serious problems, for example, cancer or genital warts.

What cancer does HPV cause?

HPV causes **1 in 20** cancers worldwide.

Almost all cervical cancers (99%) are caused by high-risk types of HPV infection.

The HPV virus also causes



Communication – Social Media

- Shared messaging on Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn



HSE National Immunisation Office (NIO) @HSEImm · Mar 4

If your child didn't get the **#HPV** vaccine when it was offered to them at school, they could be eligible to get it now through the Laura Brennan HPV Vaccine Catch-Up Programme.

Only **1 dose** of vaccine is needed.

Visit hpv.ie
[#ThankYouLaura](#) [#HPVAwarenessDay](#)



Communication

- Shared information in NIO Bulletin
- Delivered to over 4000 emails – vaccinators and vaccine advocates



The Laura Brennan HPV Vaccine Catch up programme



The Laura Brennan HPV Vaccine Catch up programme was launched on December 8 by Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly.

A HPV vaccine will be offered to:

- females in 2nd to 6th year of secondary school
- females under the age of 25
- males in 2nd to 4th year of secondary school
- males in 5th year who skipped Transition Year

From December 8th the following groups have been able to book a HPV vaccine catch-up appointment:

- female age 16 to 24 years
- male age 16 or older who started 1st year of secondary school, home-schooled or a special school between 2019 and 2021.

Further HPV vaccine clinics will be offered in 2023.

Learn more about the programme [here](#).

Frequently asked questions

NIAC now recommend a single dose schedule of HPV9 vaccine for all those aged 9 years to less than 25 years of age.

What is the new HPV vaccine schedule recommended by the NIAC for those aged 25 years or more?

A two dose schedule is now recommended for all those aged 25 years or older if the vaccine is recommended through the age of 45 years at an interval of 0 and 6-12 months.

Why is the HPV vaccine schedule being changed?

NIAC advise there is now sufficient evidence that there is no significant difference in vaccine effectiveness between those aged nine to 24 years of age who are immunocompetent who receive one, two, or three vaccine doses.

What is HPV vaccine schedule for immunocompromised for HPV infection?

A three dose schedule of HPV9 vaccine at 0, 2 and 6 months regardless of age (for further information on the immunocompromised individuals requiring 3 doses of HPV vaccine, please see [NIAC Chapter 10 Human papillomavirus](#)).



Communication – Answered Queries

From

- Politicians
- Parents
- Health and Care Professionals



What now?

- Planning for 2023/2024 academic year
- Reviewing all parent materials and feedback from parents
- Reviewing all health and care professionals materials and reviewing their feedback

