

HSE
School Immunisation Section
Vergemount Hall,
Clonskeagh
Dublin D06 EY15

March 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 (human papilloma virus), by receiving the HPV vaccine, if they were not vaccinated when they were offered it previously. HPV causes several different types of cancer in young women and men. These cancers can be prevented by getting the HPV vaccine. It is a safe and effective vaccine. 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 eligible for the Laura Brennan HPV Vaccination Catch-up Programme please contact the email below. You will be sent a consent form pack and more information about HPV.

School Immunisation Team Dublin South East, Clonskeagh

- Email: Immunisation.dse@hse.ie
- Phone: (01) 2680419; (01) 2680302

You will be vaccinated at school or at a HSE Clinic.

If they would prefer, young people aged 16 years and over and eligible may register themselves for the Laura Brennan HPV Vaccination Catch-up Programme on:

- www.hpv.ie.

You will be vaccinated at a Community Vaccination Clinic.

When will the vaccine be given?

If you are at school, the HSE School Immunisation Team will visit your school over the coming months to give the vaccine or may invite you to an immunisation clinic.

If you are 16 years and over, and you book an appointment through HPV.ie, you will be vaccinated at a HPV Vaccine Clinic in the community. There are two clinics in our HSE area: Boole House, Beech Hill Business Park, Clonskeagh and Shoreline Leisure Centre, Greystones. (The Shoreline clinic will move to Killadreenan, Newcastle, Co Wicklow at the end of March).

If you have any questions or concerns, members of the school vaccination team are happy to help. The contact details for the vaccination teams are: immunisation.dse@hse.ie (01) 2680419, (01) 2680302.

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

This is a great opportunity for those young people who have missed the HPV vaccine to date, to get the vaccine now, free of charge. The HPV vaccine prevents several different types of cancer and saves lives. I strongly encourage you to consider getting it for your child now, if they have not had it already.

Yours sincerely

Dr Mary Condon MCRN 012332

Senior Medical Officer

School Immunisation Team