

Thursday 19th October

The Laura Brennan HPV Catch- Up Vaccination 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 the chance to protect themselves from HPV, by receiving the HPV vaccine, if they were not already vaccinated. 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 vaccine is free and the programme will run until the end of 2023.

Who is being offered this Vaccine?

The HPV catch up vaccination is being offered to:

- Female students from 2nd year to 6th year who have not received the HPV vaccine previously
- Males age 21 or younger who have not previously received the vaccine
- Females age 24 or younger who have not previously received the 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).

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 will I get my child/myself vaccinated?

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 **North Lee Schools and Immunisation team on (021) 4225650**. We will be running a clinic in **Clinic A St Finbarrs Hospital on Mon 23rd October and in Mayfield Day Care Centre on Tuesday 24th October** and will plan further clinics for November and December.

Yours sincerely

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