

RE: Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

Dear Doctor,

As part of the HSE school immunisation programme, all girls in first year of second level school should receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to prevent cervical cancer. However due to unfounded public concerns about vaccine safety, HPV vaccine uptake decreased in 2015/16 leaving several thousand girls unprotected. This is of great concern to all those involved in cancer prevention.

HPV vaccine is safe and effective and has led to a reduction in high grade cervical lesions. High vaccine uptakes are the key to the success of this vaccine.

There is evidence that the recommendation of a known health professional can lead to increased vaccine uptake. As you provide a significant role in the promotion of all vaccines we would be grateful for your co-operation in the promotion of HPV vaccine.

Please find enclosed a copy of the information leaflet that parents of first year girls will receive at the start of the 2016/17 school year and also a fact sheet to help answer any queries parents may ask. Further information is available at www.immunisation.ie

Your cooperation in this is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



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