

To Each Pharmacist

5th September 2017

RE: Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

Dear Colleague,

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.

Vaccine uptake exceeded the target of 80% since 2010/11. However, this fell to 72% in 2015/16 and to an estimated first dose uptake of 50% in 2016/17 due to unfounded public concerns about vaccine safety. 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 health and wellbeing we would be grateful for your co-operation in the promotion of HPV vaccine.

Please find enclosed posters for your pharmacy, green fact sheets to help you answer any queries and blue fact sheets with information for parents or any members of the general public.

Further information is available at www.hpv.ie

Your co-operation in this is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kevin Kelleher
Assistant National Director
Health & Wellbeing Public Health and Child Health
Medical registration number 19719