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**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](http://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.

**Please remember**

- The HSE school vaccination team will be visiting schools to offer MenACWY (Meningococcal) vaccines to your child from February. It is very important that your child still receives this vaccine.

If you have any questions or concerns, members of the school vaccination team are happy to help. You can also contact them if you missed the consent pack at the start of the year and wish for your child to be vaccinated. The contact numbers for the vaccination teams are available on [www.hpv.ie](http://www.hpv.ie).

Further information is also available on [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie) and [www.hpv.ie](http://www.hpv.ie)

Yours sincerely

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