



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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LAIV Schools Programme Planning

Dear Pharmacist,

We are currently planning for the Influenza season 2024/25, and in particular the provision of LAIV nasal spray flu vaccine for children.

The LAIV nasal spray for children was introduced in Ireland for the first-time in 2020/21. A high uptake of LAIV is required in eligible children in order to achieve the population level benefits of the programme. However, the uptake overall for children aged 2-17 for the last 4 seasons has remained below 20%. Evidence from neighbouring countries such as the UK with a similar population profile, shows that the uptake of the children's flu vaccination in primary school children increased to 56% when administered in schools (2022/23).

For the 2023/24 season, HSE mobile vaccination teams offered nasal flu vaccine to children in Senior Infants (mainstream schools) and all children in primary-age special schools across Ireland. Community Pharmacies and GPs offered LAIV nasal spray in school settings to those year groups not covered by the HSE teams, as well as providing routine vaccinations. Community Pharmacies recorded almost 78,000 LAIV administrations, which was over 45% of the total LAIV activity for the season.

The HSE are supporting Community Pharmacies to offer the free LAIV nasal spray to children in mainstream primary schools during the upcoming Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme which will commence in autumn 2024. It is anticipated that where a Community Pharmacy visits a school, that they would offer LAIV to all eligible pupils in that school where possible.

The HSE are encouraging Community Pharmacies who wish to engage in the LAIV Schools Programme to reach out to mainstream primary schools in the coming weeks to explore if they would be interested in offering LAIV on-site.

Community Pharmacies are requested to provide the HSE with details of the schools where they have agreed to offer LAIV on-site during the 2024/25 Flu Vaccination Programme, using the forms provided at [LAIV Schools Programme Planning 2024/2025](#). Details of the primary school Roll Number and Eircode for each participating school will be required.

Where possible, forms should be returned before the end of June; however, there will be a further opportunity to return or amend details in September where it has not been possible to make arrangements with schools before the summer break. This will support the HSE in planning provision of LAIV in those primary schools not covered by Pharmacies or GPs.



A communication has been issued from the HSE to the Department of Education in relation to the planned provision of LAIV in Primary Schools. This information will be cascaded to all primary schools by the Department of Education in due course.

I would like once again to express my sincere gratitude to Community Pharmacies and their teams for the efficient manner in which the Influenza Vaccination Programme has been delivered in past seasons.

Please be assured of the HSE's continued support at this time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', written over a horizontal line.

Geraldine Crowley
Assistant National Director
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contract