

01/2023

To All Parents/Guardians of Junior & Senior Infant Children

**Protect your child
Immunisations at age 4-5 years are Free**

4 in 1 and booster MMR

Dear Parent/Guardian

Well done if your child has already received the preschool booster (4 in 1 & MMR) and is up to date with all immunisations, see overleaf.

If your child has not had the preschool booster yet then please make an appointment with your family doctor/practice nurse to get these immunisations as soon as possible. The sooner your child is immunised the earlier your child is protected.

Starting school is a major change in a child's life and it is important that your child remains as healthy as possible. Immunisations are a proven way to prevent vaccine preventable diseases.

In the Sligo/Leitrim/W Cavan area, Parents/Guardians are advised to vaccinate their children at age 4 – 5 years before starting primary school. We call these vaccinations the preschool booster. Remember all childhood immunisations on the Irish Schedule are Free.

If your address is outside the Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal area (former NWHB) please contact us and send us your child's details so that a free service can be offered to your child from your area of residence.

For more information on immunisations please contact your family doctor or the Immunisation Office, Markievicz House at ☎ 071 91 55148

Kind regards

Dr C Walsh, MCRN 12587
Senior Medical Officer in Immunisation

Irish Childhood Immunisation Schedule For Children Born on or after 1st October 2016

<i>Age</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Vaccine</i>
2 Months	GP	6 in 1 + PCV + MenB + Rotavirus vaccine
4 Months	GP	6 in 1 + MenB + Rotavirus Vaccine
6 Months	GP	6 in 1 + Men C + PCV
12 Months	GP	MMR + MenB
13 Months	GP	Hib/Men C + PCV
▶ 4-5 Years	GP (Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan area)	4 in 1 + MMR
1st Year Secondary School	School	HPV9, Tdap & Men ACWY for both Boys & Girls

Abbreviations used in the table above are explained below

- 6 in 1 = Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Polio, Haemophilus Influenzae type B (Hib) and Hepatitis B Vaccine.
- PCV = Pneumococcal vaccine
- MenB = Meningococcal type B Vaccine
- Men C = Meningococcal type C Vaccine
- Men ACWY = Meningococcal types A, C, W & Y Vaccine
- MMR = Measles, Mumps & Rubella Vaccine
- Hib = Haemophilus Influenzae type B Vaccine
- 4 in 1 = Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Pertussis (whooping cough) Vaccine.
- HPV9 = Human Papillomavirus Vaccine
- Tdap = Tetanus, low dose Diphtheria, low dose acellular Pertussis Vaccine.

For further information on the Irish Immunisation schedule please go to www.immunisation.ie

01/2023

The Principal

RE:- Immunisations at age 4-5 years

4 in 1 & booster MMR

Dear Principal

I should be very grateful if you could distribute the enclosed letters to all the Junior & Senior Infant Pupils respectively in your School. One letter is for the Junior Infant children and the other one is for the Senior Infant children. Should you require additional letters, please contact the Immunisation Office at the above telephone number.

These letters advise parents to attend their family doctor for their child's routine immunisations due at age 4 – 5 years. In the Sligo/Leitrim area we do not have teams of doctors and nurses entering primary schools to offer the Junior Infants their vaccinations. Other HSE areas in Ireland have been directed to offer these vaccinations in schools because the uptake was deemed too low for protection. We hope this reminder letter will encourage any parent who has not vaccinated their child to avail of the free service provided by the GP's in this area. We hope by attending the local GP there will be less disruption to your school.

Children with an address outside the Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal (former NWHB) area should be followed up by the service in their county of residence. It is important that we can identify these children as they may not receive the service free from their family doctor. We would be most grateful if you could provide us with the Names, Addresses and Dates of Birth of the Junior Infant Children attending your school who do not have a Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal address so that these children can be offered an appointment for their immunisations at a HSE clinic.

Thank you for your continuing support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Dr Cathriona Walsh, MCRN 12587
Senior Medical Officer – Immunisation