A national approach to delivering a schools-based HPV vaccination programme

5 June 2025

Dr Kirsty Roy
Consultant in Health Protection
Public Health Scotland
Kirsty.Roy@phs.scot



Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

- Main committee 3 times/year minutes available
- Vaccine/programme specific subcommittees as required minutes available
 - Is there a suitable vaccine? Phase 1,2,3 trials, safety profile, reactogenicity, dose, efficacy
 - Is there a need for it? Disease incidence, complications, case fatality, age distribution, trends
 - Other factors acceptability, mode of delivery, aim of programme
 - Cost-effectiveness economic costs of disease, economic costs of vaccine, dynamic models, uncertainty
- UK wide representation

Milestones of the schools-based HPV vaccination programme

DELIVE BBC NEWS CHANNEL

Page last updated at 12:44 GMT, Monday, 1 September 2008 13:44 UK

E-mail this to a friend

Printable version

Schools start cancer vaccinations

Scottish schoolgirls are to become the first in the UK to be vaccinated against cervical cancer.

Schools in the Lanarkshire, Tayside, Grampian and Western Isles NHS areas are to begin vaccinating 12 and 13-year-old girls from this week.

Pupils in other areas of Scotland, to be to be the England, Wales and Northern Ireland will follow in the coming weeks.



Every secondary schoolgirl in the UK is to be offered the injections

Bivalent vaccine introduced routinely for girls aged 12-13 years and girls aged up to 18 years for first three years Quadrivalent vaccine, which adds protection against genital warts, replaces the bivalent vaccine used in the programme Introduction of universal HPV programme now includes boys aged 12-13 for the first time

Two-dose schedule changed to one-dose schedule

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Catch-up programme finishes

Three-dose schedule changed to two-dose schedule

Introduction of nonavalent vaccine which protects against HPV types responsible for 87% of cervical cancer cases

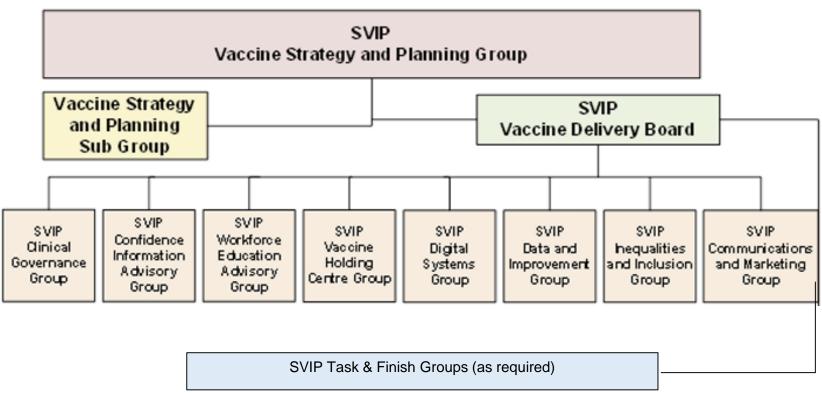


Health Service Overview

- Integrated health service: free at point of care
- Accountable to Scottish Government
- Delivered by
 - 14 local NHS Boards Immunisation Co-ordinators
 - Independent contractors e.g. GPs, dentists
- Supported by National Boards
 - National coordination
 - Oversight and assurance
 - Procurement
 - National Digital Infrastructure
 - Informed consent materials and processes
 - Workforce education
 - Standards and audit
- Links to wider Scottish e.g. local authorities, and UK structures, e.g. evidence & policy



Scottish Vaccination and Immunisation Programme

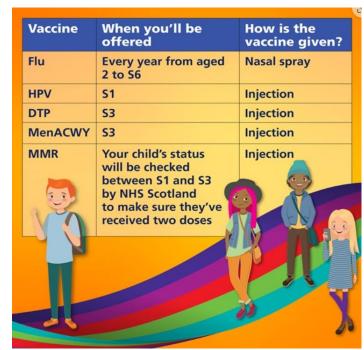


Scotland's 5-year Vaccination and Immunisation Framework and Delivery Plan



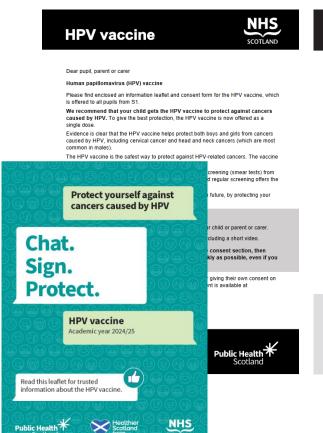
School Immunisation Delivery Process

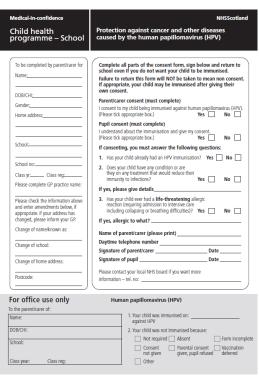
- 1. Data Collection: school roll data obtained from local education authorities.
- 2. Consent Forms: standard consent form templates populated with individual child details. forms, letters, and leaflets sent to schools for distribution to pupils.
- **3. Form Collection:** parents/carers return completed forms to schools for collection.
- **4. Scheduling:** suitable dates and spacesagreed with schools (avoiding exam periods).
- **5. Immunisation Delivery:** immunisations delivered on-site on agreed dates for each school.
- **6. Recording:** paper-based recording with later manual entry into call & recall systems, local clinical recording, and/or GP IT systems.
- 7. Alternative Pathways: alternative pathways for those not in mainstream education or who missed a dose provided.





HPV vaccine consent process – printed resources





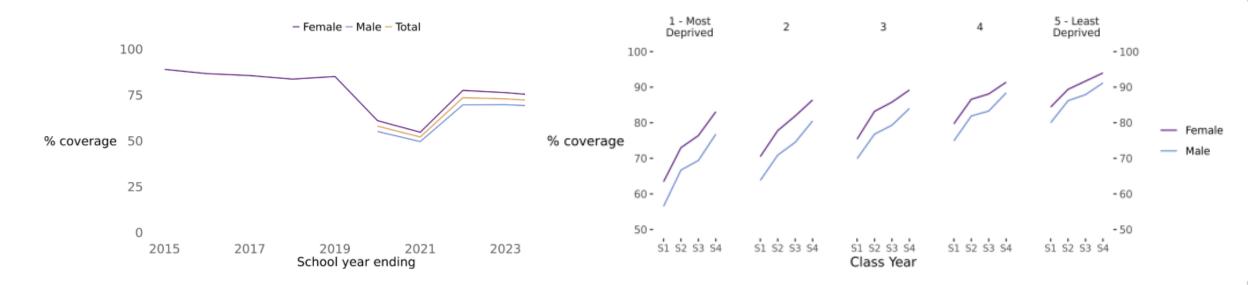
- Consent packs are provided to all young people in S1 in secondary school. Sent home via school-bags.
- Pack contains invitation letter, consent form and a leaflet to support informed consent.
- Signposting to more information on <u>NHSinform</u>, including a Q&A <u>video</u> with an NHS vaccinator about vaccines for young people.



Current Vaccination Coverage: Schools Programme

Coverage of HPV immunisation (single dose) in S1 pupils, from school year 2014/15 to 2023/24, by sex

Coverage of HPV immunisation (single dose) by end of the school year 2023/24, by class year, sex and deprivation



HPV Immunisation Statistics, Scotland. School Year 2023/24. Public Health Scotland



What we don't know

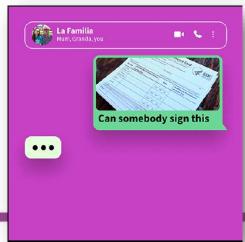
- Reason for lower uptake/coverage since pandemic: COVID fatigue, higher absenteeism, higher hesitancy, increased digital communication etc.
- Consent: who doesn't consent and why.
- Males/females: why there is this difference. Attitudinal, behavioural, knowledge of eligibility. Why do some Boards have a smaller gap?
- **Deprivation**: Attitudinal, behavioural, demographic differences, health literacy, absenteeism, leaving school early. Priorities of schools in these areas? Logistics of organising visit?
- **Ethnicity**: Detail of make-up of different ethnic groups and ethnicities. Link to deprivation? Attitudes, beliefs etc.
- **Urban/rurality**: Why (very) remote small towns have lowest uptake. Logistics of organising visit? Prioritise of schools in these areas? Attitudinal, behavioural, demographic differences?

Work underway to increase uptake

- Chat Sign Protect campaign
 - Recognition of HPV high (75%)
 - Significant increase in HPV vaccinations post campaign
 - Awareness that HPV is for boys too increased post campaign
- PHS Inclusion Sharing Sessions focusing on Gypsy Traveller community
- Digital consent being considered as part of digital commission

Opportunity to highlight importance of screening







Share this message at home

Women (and anyone with a cervix) aged 25 to 64 are offered regular cervical screening (smear tests) whether they've had the HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine or not.

When it's your turn you should receive a letter inviting you to arrange an appointment with your GP practice. Don't ignore your invite. It could save your life.

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV. The HPV vaccine protects against the main causes of cervical cancer but it does not protect against them all. So even if you've had the HPV vaccine, it's important to attend your cervical screening.



For more information, scan the QR code

www.nhsinform.scot/cervicalscreening

