

# HPV vaccination programme in Ireland

Dr Brenda Corcoran  
Director  
National Immunisation Office

HPV Prevention and Control Board  
30 November 2017



# History

April 2008

- *Recommended by expert group*

August 2008

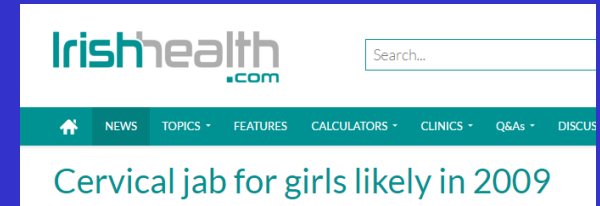
- *“to start September 2009”*

November 2008

- *“deferred due to rapidly and seriously deteriorated economic situation”*

January 2010

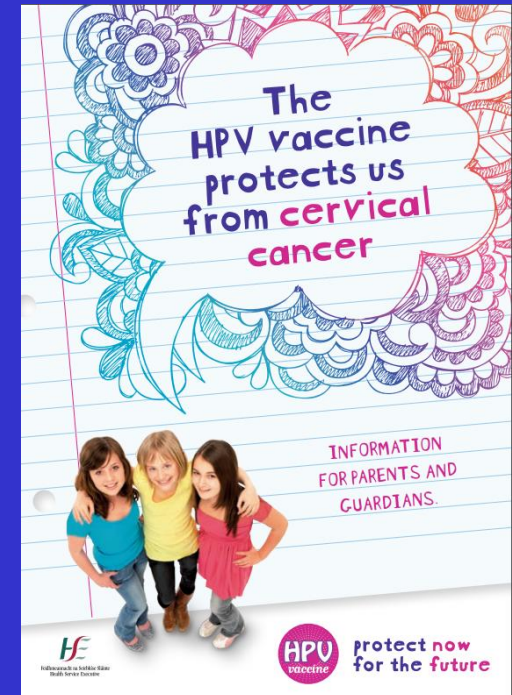
- *To start in May 2010*



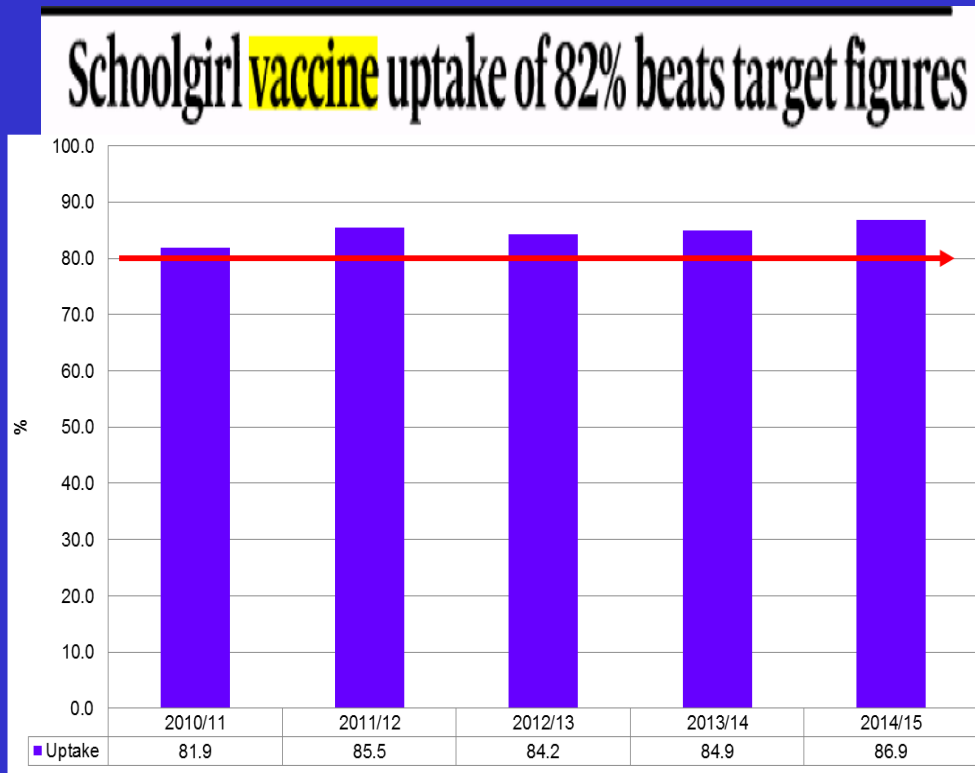
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# HPV vaccination programme

- 12-13 year old girls
- HPV4 (Gardasil) vaccine used
- School based programme
  - Cohort ~30,000
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year of second level school
  - September/October and March/April
  - Clinics for those who miss out
- Parents sent information leaflet, consent form and contact details
  - Information literacy proofed
  - Contact details for vaccination teams
  - Referred to website for more information



# HPV vaccine uptake 2010 - 2014



Highest uptake achieved in 2014/15

Excellent cohort retention

97% girls who started dose 1 completed dose 2

[www.hpv.ie](http://www.hpv.ie)

## Cervical cancer jab gets parental nod

**Eilish O'Regan**

AS MANY as 85pc of parents have so far given the go-ahead for their teenage daughters to receive the cervical cancer vaccine. Girls in several secondary schools yesterday became the first of 1,500 to receive the vaccine this term, but the majority will have to wait until September.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) is offering the vaccine to all first-year secondary school girls, and plans to extend it to 21 schools before the end of this term.

Parents, who were sent information packs and consent forms in advance of the vaccination becoming available, have the right to refuse to let their daughters receive the injections.

An estimated 30,000 of the current first-year pupils

will receive the vaccine this month or in September. The HSE will begin vaccinating the next round of students at the beginning of the next school year.

The girls need three jabs, with a second due around July for those who will be inoculated this term.

The vaccine, Gardasil, protects against the types of human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, which causes seven out of 10 of all

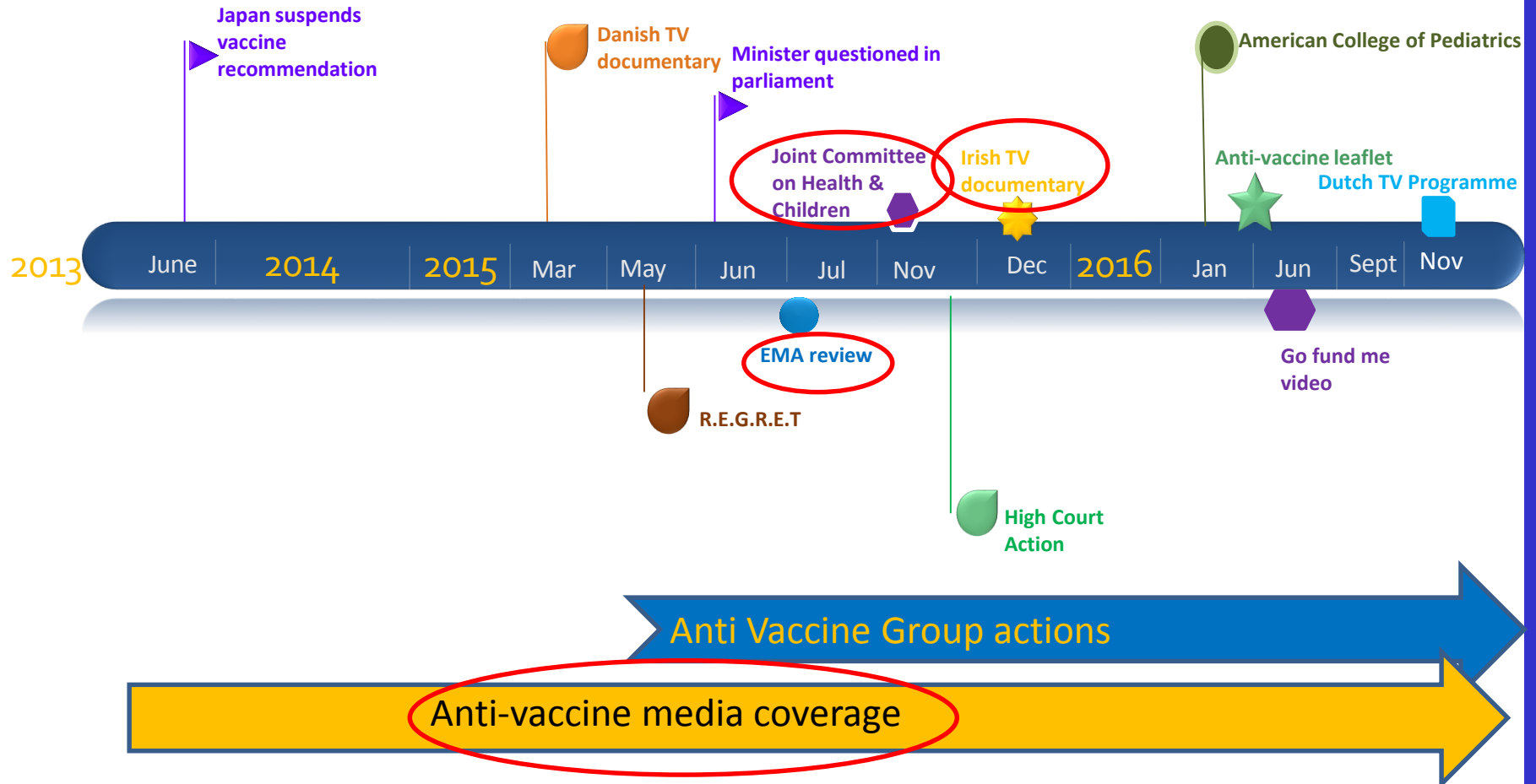
cervical cancers. It does not rule out the need for screening. Studies so far show protection lasts for at least five years after a full course, but more research will be required to see if a booster shot will be needed. Doctors said side effects were mild and allergic reactions were rare but fainting had been reported in a number of girls.



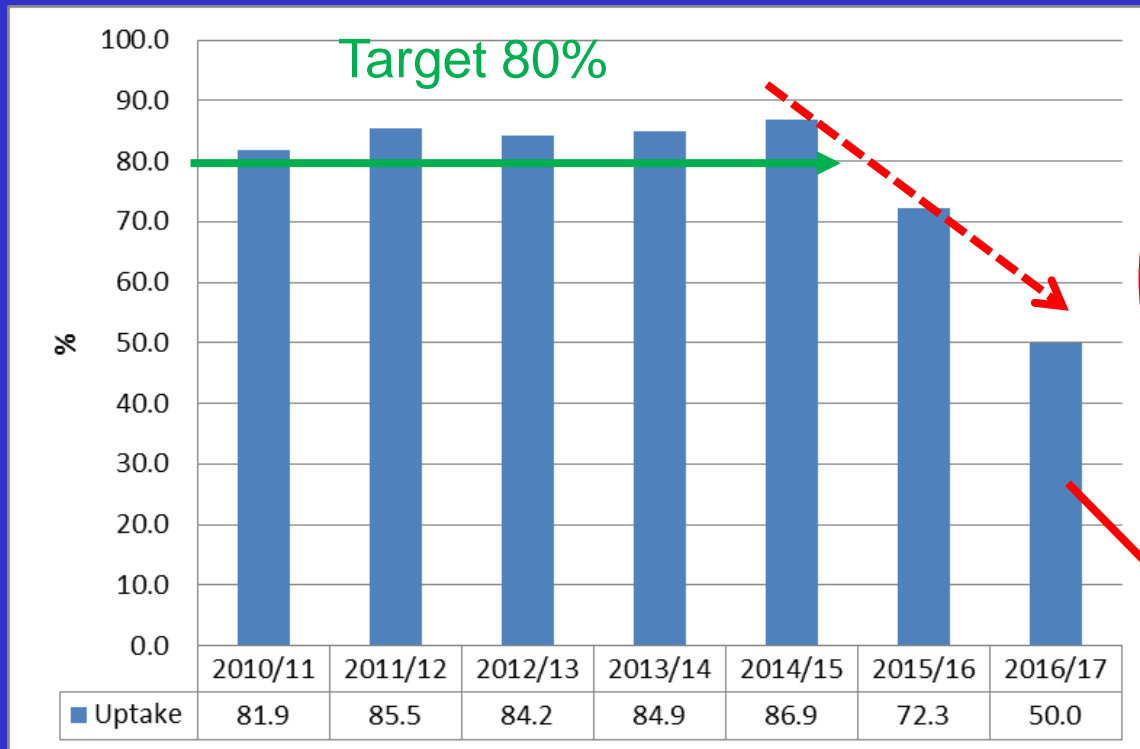
The HSE's Dr Maureen O'Leary administers the HPV jab at Our Lady's Grove school in Goochstown, Co Dublin, yesterday. CHRIS BULLIVANT/REUTERS



# Timeline of events



# HPV vaccine uptake 2010/2011 - 2016/2017



~15,000 girls  
not vaccinated  
in 2016/17

Estimated uptake 1<sup>st</sup> dose only



## Reactions and Effects of Gardasil Resulting in Extreme Trauma

Home Background Victims Research Videos



**R.E.G.R.E.T.**

*What needs to be done?*

R.E.G.R.E.T.  
Support Group  
INAUGURAL MEETING,  
SWORDS, 28/05/2015, 12 am.  
PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND AGENDA.

12.00. INTRODUCTION:

AIMS OF THE GROUP:

- TO GET THE GIRLS HEALTH BACK
- TO CREATE AWARENESS AMONG OTHER PARENTS OF THE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS REACTIONS
- TO SUPPORT THE GIRLS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION

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A Public Service Message from REGRET

HPV vaccination - Do you know the full facts? [31/08/2016]



REGRET GoFundMe campaign

[29/06/2016] [REGRET GoFundMe campaign](#) begins to help Irish families trying to cope with post-HPV vaccine illness. Tel. +353894582901 for info

Cervical Cancer Vaccine - Is it safe? (Irish TV3 Documentary)

Four Irish families tell their stories about what getting the HPV Vaccine Gardasil has meant for them. TV3 documentary aired on 14/12/2015.



Embed View on Twitter



### Teenager blames HPV jab for 1 'nightmare' side effects



### Concerns as fewer schoolgirls opt for cervical cancer jab

Ignore 'unfounded fear' over vaccine, parents told



[www.hpv.ie](http://www.hpv.ie)



Reidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

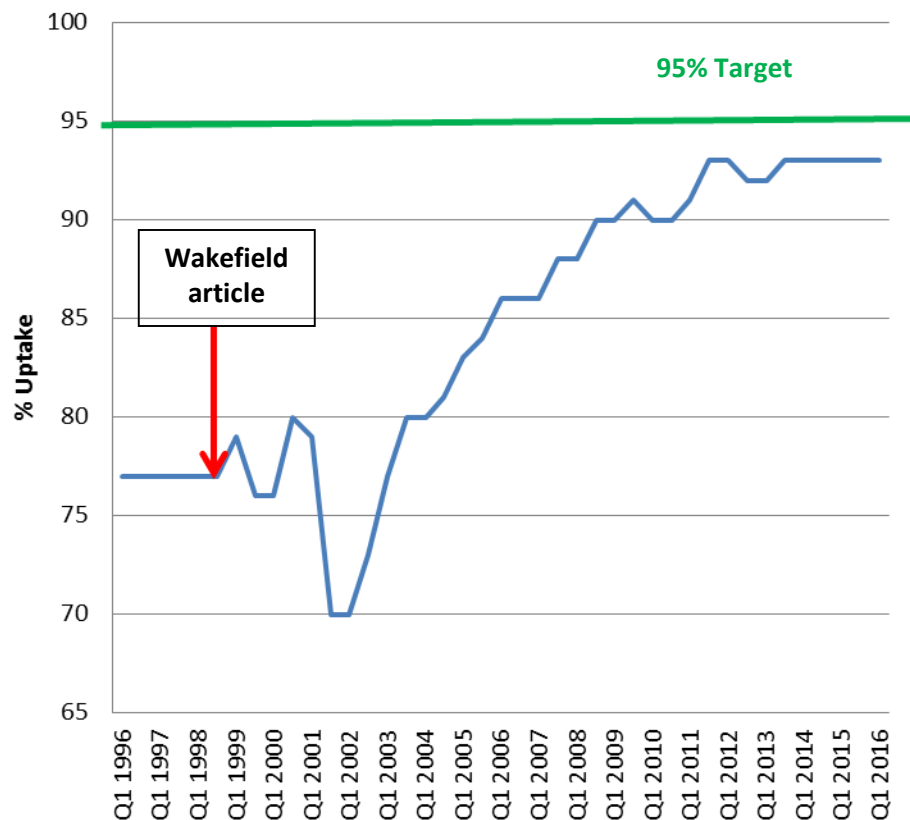
# Concerns

- Vaccine safety
  - Vaccine safety
  - Vaccine safety
  - Vaccine causes serious side effects
- 
- Lack of information – not given patient information leaflet
  - Consent process too rushed
  - Distrust in Irish health services – link to Pharma
  - Anti-establishment agenda

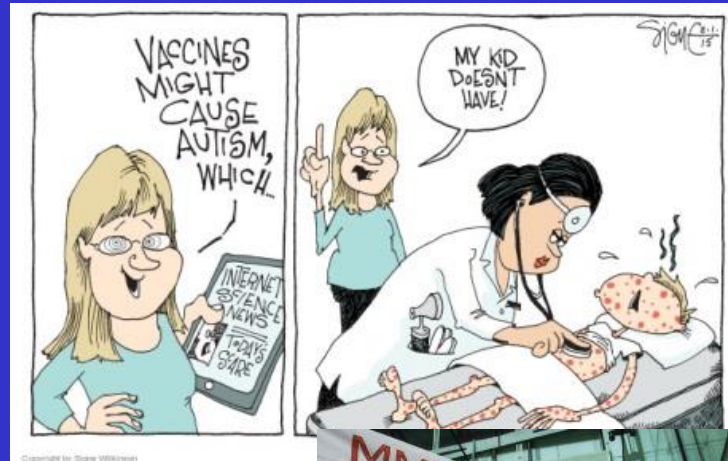




## MMR Vaccine Uptake



Source: HPSC



**MMR safe? Baloney.**  
**This is one scandal that's getting worse**

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

G Santayana

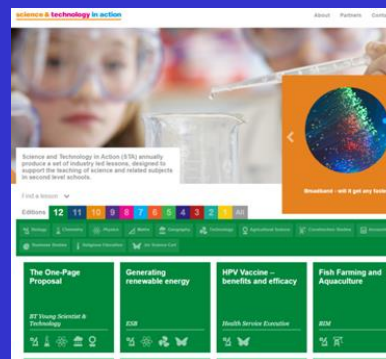
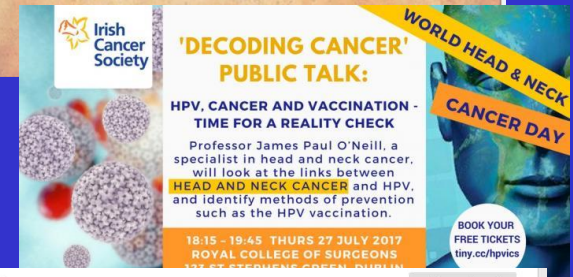
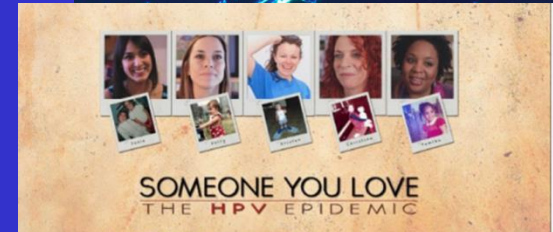
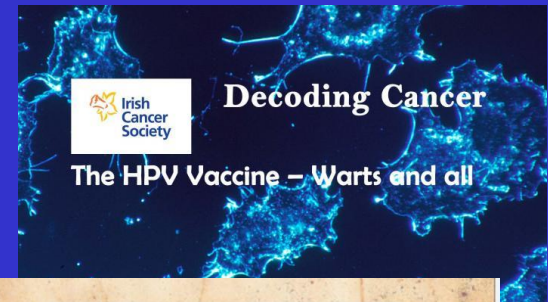
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# Actions

## Liaison

- The Irish Cancer Society
- National Cancer Screening Service
- Professional bodies
- Department of Education/ Schools
- National Parents Councils
- Politicians
- Global

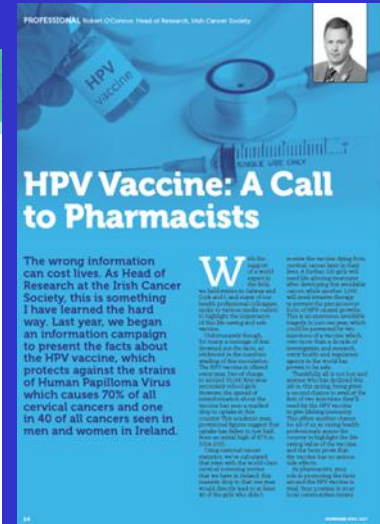
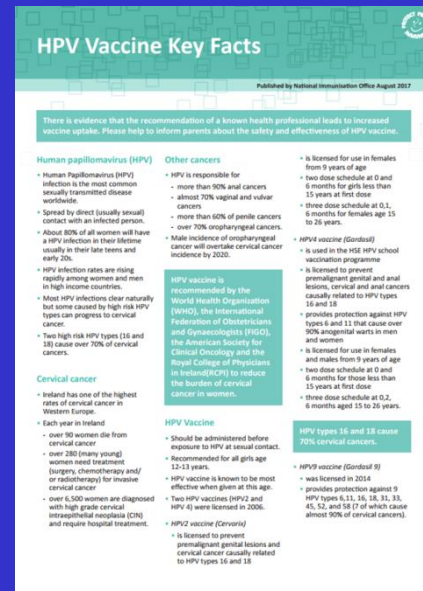


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# Actions

# Health professional training

- Prioritise immunisation in healthcare education
  - minimal immunisation teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level
  - opportunistic education sessions > 2500 in 2016
- Fact sheets/ articles in journals
- ICGP elearning modules
- Pharmacies

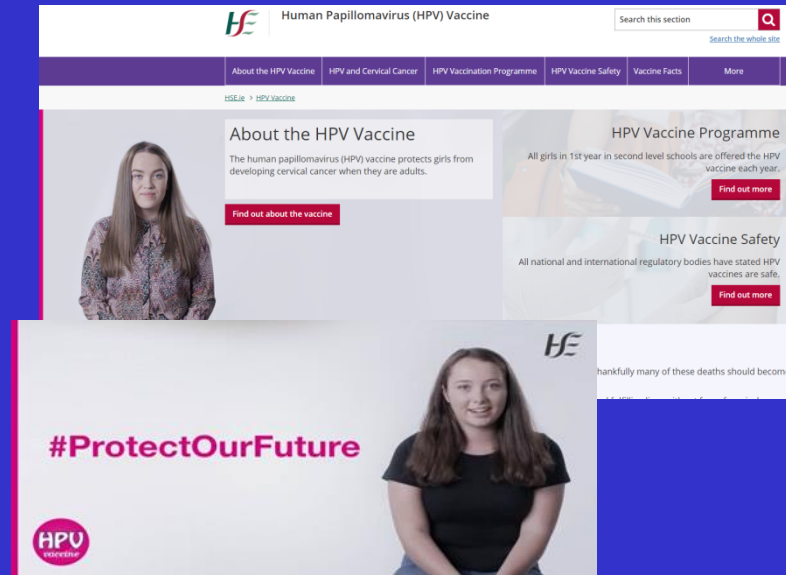
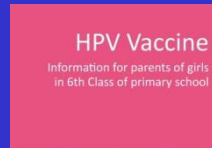
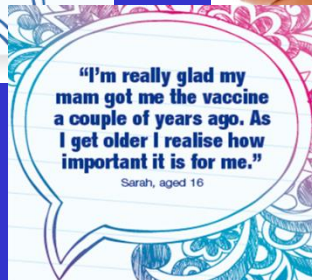
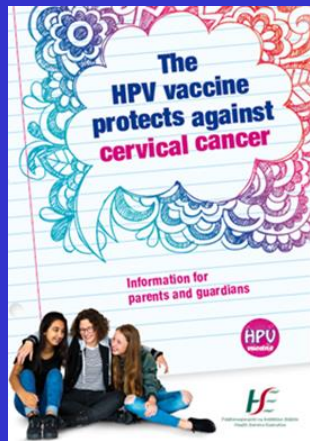




# Actions

## Information for parents

- Focus groups
- Offer vaccine again
- Information for 6<sup>th</sup> class parents
- Short information videos
- Revised parents leaflet (with quotes)
- More time to consent



# Actions

- Increase awareness of vaccine
- National and local radio advertising
- Social media listening
- Social media campaign
  - vaccinated girls
  - international experts
- Alliance of health care and other supportive bodies
  - women's rights
  - childrens' rights
  - cancer charities
  - youth groups
  - influencers



## HPV-Caused Cancers

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus. Most people have an HPV infection at some point in their lives. For most of us, HPV infection is harmless. But, for some, it can cause cancer.

Estimated annual number of cancers caused by HPV in Ireland (2010-2014 data). These numbers are on the rise.

**420**  
Most of these cancers could potentially be prevented by HPV vaccination

This number includes:  
 Broken down by cancer:  
 335 Cervical  
 85 Anal and throat  
 18 Invasive (anal and rectum)  
 18 Prostate  
 18 Penile  
 8 Oropharyngeal

Estimated annual number of deaths in Ireland from cancers caused by HPV (2010-2014)

**130**  
UP TO

HPV VACCINATION HELPS THE POTENTIAL TO SAVE LIVES AND REDUCE THE BURDEN OF HPV IN THE FUTURE.



### Facts about HPV Vaccine and Cervical Cancer

Published by National Immunisation Office August 2017

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine protects girls from developing cervical cancer in adulthood. Overwhelming scientific evidence has shown that HPV vaccine is safe and effective.

**High vaccine uptake is essential** to the success of the HPV school vaccination programme. However, uptake rates have fallen in recent years due to alleged safety concerns which have no scientific basis. This is of great concern to all those involved in cancer prevention.

Please read these facts about HPV vaccine and cervical cancer:

**Human papillomavirus (HPV)**

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is spread by direct (usually sexual) contact with an infected person.
- About 80% of all women will have a HPV infection in their lifetime, usually in their late teens and early 20s.
- Most HPV infections clear naturally but some caused by high-risk HPV types can progress to cervical cancer.
- Two high-risk HPV types (16 and 18) cause over 70% of cervical cancer.
- Related to one of the highest rates of cervical cancer in Western Europe.
- Each year in Ireland:
  - over 10 women die from cervical cancer
  - over 180 young women need treatment (surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy) for invasive cervical cancer
  - over 1,500 women need hospital treatment for precancerous changes of cervical cancer

**HPV vaccine**

- There are three licensed HPV vaccines: HPV1, HPV2 and HPV3.
- HPV vaccine is recommended by international and national bodies including:
  - the World Health Organisation
  - the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists
  - the US Centers for Disease Control
  - all 60 designated National Cancer Centres
  - the American Society for Clinical Oncology
  - the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
- The HPV vaccine used in the Irish school vaccination programme is HPV3 (Cervarix).

**Safety of HPV vaccines**

- All vaccines have gone through extensive safety testing before they are licensed.
- Once in use, vaccine safety is continuously monitored to identify any safety concerns as they arise.
- Any medical 'worries' reported after vaccination are analysed to see if it is related to the vaccine.
- The European Medicines Agency, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organisation continue to say HPV vaccines are safe with no known long-term side effects.

**Dispensing methods have affected uptake but no scientific evidence linking HPV vaccines to any long-term medical condition.**

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**HPV vaccine side effects**

The known side effects are:

- About 1 girl in 10 will get pain, swelling and redness at the injection site and/or headache.
- About 1 girl in 100 will get nausea, and 1 girl in 1,000 to 1 girl in 10,000 will get an itchy rash or fever.
- Severe allergic reactions with difficulty breathing are very rare (about 1 in 1 million patients).
- Occasionally girls have allergic reaction to the vaccine. The girls are advised to sit down for 15 minutes after the vaccination. This helps prevent anaphylaxis.

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# Political support



## 'Uninformed nonsense' about HPV vaccine is endangering lives

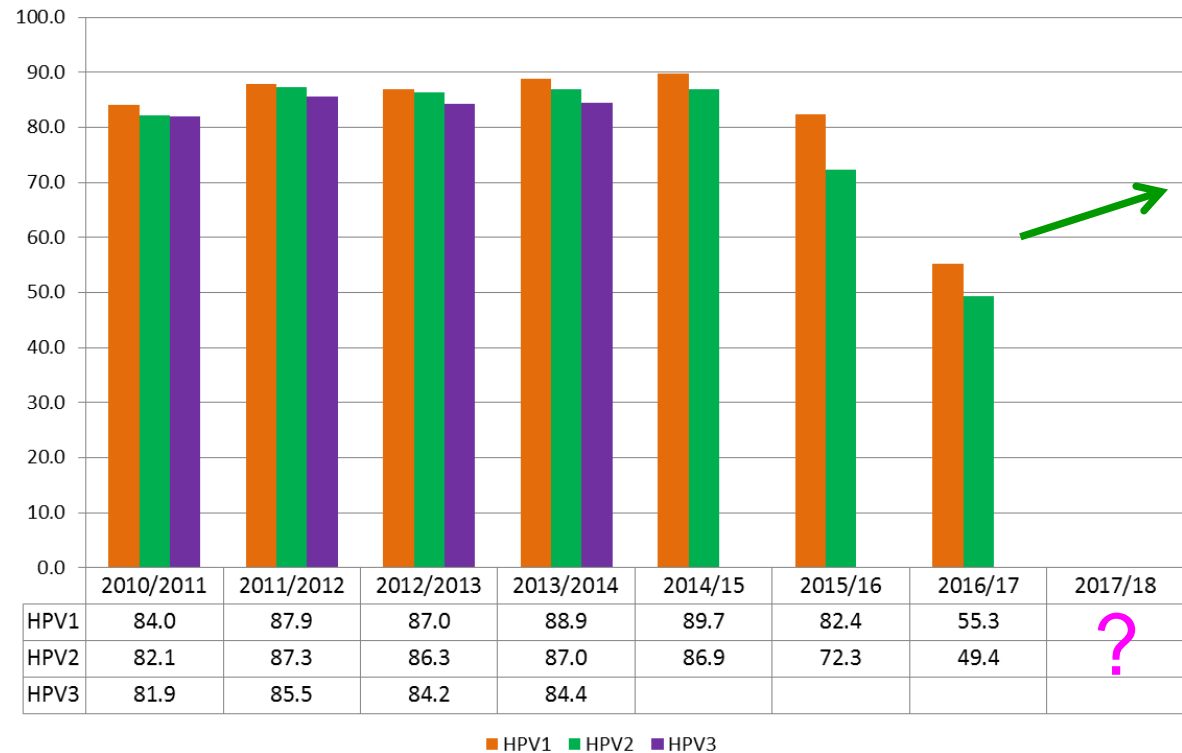
Health Minister says it's time to 'take on the scaremongers' who are misinforming people



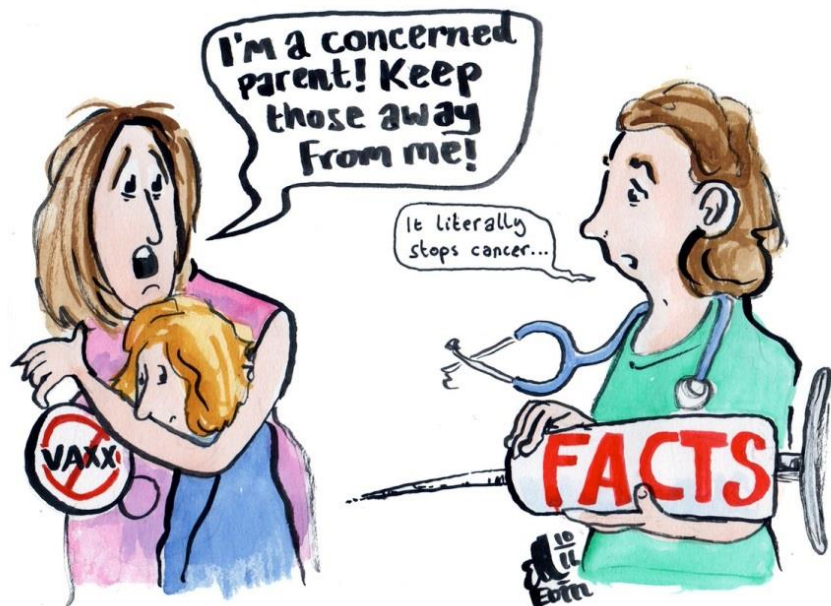
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# Impact

- Increase in uptake in 2016/17
- Increase in 1<sup>st</sup> dose uptake in 2017/18



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Ireland has one of the lowest uptake rates of the HPV vaccine, which prevents cervical and other cancers...



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