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To Each Pharmacist

August 2018

RE: Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

Dear Colleague,

As part of the HSE school immunisation programme, the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is recommended for all girls in first year of second level school to prevent cervical cancer.

Following concerted multi sectoral support, the decline in vaccine uptake to 50% in 2016/17 has been reversed to an estimated 62% in 2017/18. This is very welcome but we need to attain the previously high vaccine uptakes in excess of 85% to significantly reduce high grade cervical lesions and cancer.

There is evidence that the recommendation of a known health professional can lead to increased vaccine uptake.

As you provide a significant role in the promotion of health and wellbeing we are very grateful for your continued co-operation in the promotion of HPV vaccine.

Please find enclosed posters for your pharmacy, pink fact sheets to help you answer any queries and purple fact sheets with information for parents or any members of the general public.

Further information is available at www.hpv.ie

Your co-operation in this is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelleher', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Kevin Kelleher
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