



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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New Childhood Immunisation Schedule: Update

The schedule will include pneumococcal and hepatitis B vaccine as outlined:

Age	Immunisations	Comment
Birth	BCG	1 injection
2 months	DTaP/Hib/IPV/Hep B (6 in 1) + PCV	2 injections
4 months	DTaP/Hib/IPV/Hep B (6 in 1) + Men C	2 injections
6 months	DTaP/Hib/IPV/Hep B (6 in 1) + PCV + Men C	3 injections
12 months	MMR + PCV	2 injections
13 months	Men C + Hib	1-2 injections

BCG Bacille Calmette Guerin vaccine
DTaP Diphtheria, Tetanus and acellular Pertussis vaccine
Hep B Hepatitis B vaccine
Hib Haemophilus influenzae b vaccine

IPV Inactivated Polio Virus vaccine
PCV Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
Men C Meningococcal C vaccine
MMR Measles Mumps Rubella vaccine

In addition NIAC has recommended a pneumococcal vaccination catch up campaign for all children under 2 years of age which will commence on September 1st 2008.

The HSE South are organising information sessions on the new schedule for GPs, Practice Nurses, Public Health Nurses and other relevant hospital and community services staff. These sessions will include information on the changes and rationale, frequently asked questions, pneumococcal catch up and administrative issues. The times and venues for these meetings are given below.

Date	Venue	Time
Wed 11 th June, 08	KERRY LHO Killarney Court Hotel, Killarney	12.30pm-2.00 pm
	Room L204, School of Science & Computing, Institute of Technology, Tralee	6.00pm – 7.30pm
Thurs 12 th June, 08	North Cork LHO Mallow GAA complex St. Josephs Rd., Mallow	8.00pm – 9.30pm
Mon 16 th June, 08	North/South Lee LHO BHSC G10 Brookfield, College Rd., Cork	12.30pm – 2.00pm 8.00pm – 9.30pm
Tues 17 th June, 08	West Cork LHO Famine Memorial Training Room Community Hospital, Dunmanway, Co. Cork	8.00pm – 9.30pm

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Measles Vaccination and Euro 2008

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) has warned football fans planning to travel to this summer's Euro 2008 tournament to make sure that they have been vaccinated against measles, following major outbreaks of the disease in Austria and Switzerland, who are jointly hosting the competition. While Ireland did not qualify for the tournament some fans may still travel and should be aware that measles is an extremely contagious and potentially fatal disease.

These European outbreaks are a reminder of the importance of vaccination, especially for children, as it is the only safe and effective way to prevent measles from spreading. High levels of MMR vaccination are needed to protect against infection and to protect very young children - under 12 months of age - who are too young to be vaccinated. While measles usually occur in children under four years, people of any age, if not already protected through natural infection or vaccination, can catch the disease. Severe disease and complications are most likely in young children under five years and adults over 20 years. It is important to realise that almost half of the deaths associated with measles occur in previously healthy children and young adults.

The European outbreaks are a timely reminder to get vaccinated. MMR uptake for children at 24 months of age in Cork and Kerry is 88% - still well short of the 95% needed to prevent the virus from circulating and causing outbreaks. Most adults, particularly those born before 1978, are likely to have already had measles infection. However, any individual, whatever age, who has never had measles infection or the measles vaccine should be vaccinated.

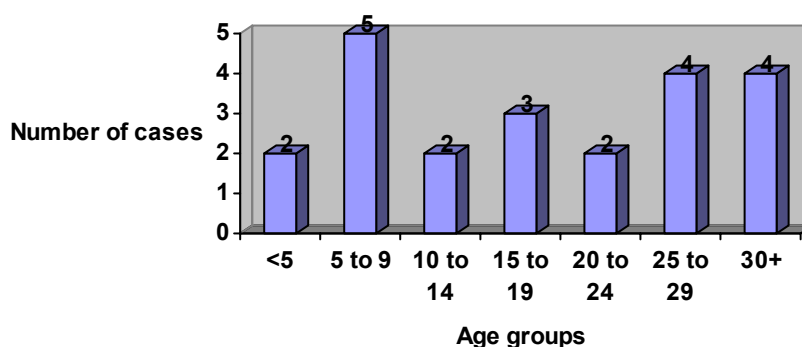
Increase in Mumps Cases

Mumps cases have started to increase again in 2008. For the first 16 weeks of 2008 we have been notified of 22 cases in Cork and Kerry, compared to 4 for the same period in 2007.

An increase has been noted all over the country, with 153 cases notified nationally in the first 16 weeks of 2008, compared to 150 for all of 2007. A number of cases have been reported in students at third level colleges. The Health Protection Surveillance Centre has again warned students under 25 years of age, particularly new students, to make sure that they have had two doses of MMR vaccine.

In Cork and Kerry cases have been occurring at a wide range of ages, from 3 years to 56 years, see Figure 1 for the age breakdown.

Figure 1



Information on vaccination status of cases indicates that 85% were unvaccinated.

The increase in mumps again highlights the need for high uptake of MMR vaccine.