

23 September 2011

HPV (Human Papillomavirus Vaccination) Programme 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian

The HSE is aware of correspondence being sent to principals of second level schools with concerns that Gardasil, the HPV vaccine used in the national programme is “contaminated with viral DNA”.

The European Medicines Agency is responsible for the regulation of all medicines. They have examined these concerns and confirmed that Gardasil remains safe and effective.

HPV vaccine protects girls from high risk types of HPV infection and cervical cancer when they are adults. Each year in Ireland around 250 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 80 die from the disease. At least 7 out of 10 of these cancers are linked to Human Papillomavirus (HPV) types 16 and 18 which are covered by Gardasil vaccine.

Since the HSE began the HPV vaccination programme in May 2011 we have given over 145,000 doses of Gardasil.

All girls in First and Sixth year are now being offered this vaccine to protect them from cervical cancer.

Further information is available at www.hpv.ie and www.immunisation.ie

Yours sincerely



Dr Kevin Kelleher
Assistant National Director Population Health – Health Protection
Medical Registration Number 19719