

National Immunisation Advisory Committee

MEETING DETAILS

Date (Venue)	28.11.2022 (Winter Hall, No. 6 RCPI, Kildare Street, Dublin and Teams)
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ITEM	SUMMARY
Introductions	Committee members including new members were welcomed and departing committee member thanked for their contribution.
Statement of Interests	No conflicts of interest declared.
Hepatitis A	Paper presented re hepatitis A outbreak that involved members of the Traveller community and options for a targeted vaccination programme if required. Discussion included indication for and logistics of a targeted programme, the role of wastewater surveillance, public health measures including sanitation. International recommendations were reviewed.
SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)	<p>Updated epidemiology reviewed.</p> <p>Query received regarding need for four month interval between vaccine doses was addressed. Based on duration of vaccine effectiveness and enhanced immunogenicity with extended intervals, NIAC continues to recommend a minimum interval of four months. In exceptional circumstances the minimum interval may be reduced to three months.</p> <p>Consideration of a second boosters for those aged 18-49 years continues.</p> <p>The beneficial role wastewater surveillance (WWS) as it relates to SARS-CoV-2 was discussed. The possibility of utilising WWS to aid in the prevention of other vaccine preventable diseases was also discussed.</p> <p>Issue of whole genome sequencing surveillance for six months-four year old children was raised. Further clarification of the rationale will be sought.</p>
Monkeypox	Deferred.
Polio	<p>Letter to CMO has been sent.</p> <p>Included suggestion to include polio in WWS.</p>

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Primary Childhood Immunisation Schedule	Future options were presented and discussed including addition of pertussis booster and varicella vaccines, reduction in number of Men C doses, role of novel PCV vaccines with expanded repertoire, and number of injections to be given at each visit. Impact of potential changes on number of injections/visits required was discussed including concern that an additional visit could result in lower vaccine uptake. NIO reported lower uptake at 13 month compared with the 12 month visit.
Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG)	Recommendation is under consideration by Minister for Health.
Varicella Zoster Vaccine	HIQA HTA for varicella vaccine is ongoing. Proposal for addition of VZV will be incorporated in revision of the childhood immunisation schedule.
Influenza	Epidemiology reviewed – 13% increase in hospitalisations. Vaccine uptake in >65 years 61%, but only 9% in children – impact of locations available for vaccination on the uptake levels was discussed.
Meningococcal disease	Recent epidemiology reviewed. Catch-up not recommended at this time. Monitoring of epidemiology to continue.
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine	HPV recommendations submitted to DOH.
Chapter Updates	16 of the 27 chapters have been updated in 2022.
Vaccine Injury Redress Scheme	Continued to advocate for introduction of scheme. Has not been finalised. Await more information from DOH.