

## National Immunisation Advisory Committee

MEETING DETAILS	
<b>Date (Venue)</b>	27.09.2021 (Teams)

ITEM	SUMMARY
<b>Introductions</b>	Member filling new Technical Scientific Researcher role introduced.
<b>Statement of Interests</b>	No conflicts of interest declared.
<b>SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virus update – Delta and sublineages thereof remain the dominant variant(s) in circulation.</li> <li>• Weekly COVID-19 Committee meetings until Sept 2021 and biweekly meetings are continuing. Ongoing questions requiring review include booster doses/vaccines for children/vaccinations for those coming from other countries. In response to a request from colleagues in New Zealand, this morning NIAC representatives, together with the heads of Communications from RCPI and DOH, joined a zoom call with New Zealand vaccine programme representatives, regarding shared experience of improving vaccination rates.</li> <li>• Rollout – Going well, targeting groups where lower uptake, programme of additional doses for immunocompromised to start shortly.</li> <li>• EMA update – Safety update given. Awaiting report from Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) meeting this week on some further updates to the product information based on ongoing safety reviews. EMA reviewing evidence around giving additional dose to those who have not responded to primary series and booster doses for wider population.</li> <li>• Chapter 5a – ongoing iterations of chapter, several recent updates. Definitions of those with suboptimal response to vaccine refined recently.</li> </ul>
<b>Influenza</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter - Updated including adjuvanted quadrivalent vaccine dose for those aged 65 and older</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rollout - Three vaccines will be administered in this year's programme, to begin shortly</li> </ul>
<b>Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG)</b>	Report from Committee last February suggested that there was insufficient evidence to make a recommendation of selective versus no BCG vaccine policy. Consideration needed for BCG for those at highest risk. Draft recommendation to be circulated regarding specific high-risk groups. Vaccine delivery training and vaccine supply will need to be addressed following recommendations.
<b>Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine</b>	Programme continuing, provisional data from 2019/2020 suggests good coverage rates, awaiting data from 2020/2021. If eligible teenager missed dose due to COVID-19 pandemic, then can be part of catch up programme. Invitation from HIQA for NIAC to participate in expert advisory group on HPV vaccine catch up programme for boys.
<b>Primary Immunisation &amp; Vaccine Schedule</b>	<p>Varicella zoster vaccination for children and incorporation of the inactivated zoster vaccine remain important considerations. Recommendations remain to be finalised depending on availability of the results of the HIQA HTA which was deferred because of COVID-19.</p> <p>Epidemiological information awaited regarding pneumococcal and meningococcal disease.</p>
<b>Meningococcal Infection</b>	Very few cases reported in Dublin area. Nil other to update.
<b>Varicella Zoster Virus</b>	See above regarding varicella vaccines. Nil other to update. Shingrix® vaccine to be made available privately in Ireland shortly, chapter will be updated
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Nil to update.
<b>Chapter Updates</b>	<p><b>Chapter 5a – COVID-19</b> - Discussed above. Twenty-four iterations of Chapter 5a have been prepared and uploaded to date, reflecting the emerging evidence about COVID-19 vaccines.</p> <p><b>Chapter 3 – Immunisation of the Immunocompromised</b> – Changes made to align with changes to Chapter 5a.</p> <p><b>Chapter 11- Influenza</b> – Changes made to include adjuvanted influenza vaccine for those aged 65 and older and to align with changes to Chapter 5a.</p>

<b>Vaccine injury redress scheme</b>	Continued to advocate for introduction of scheme. Has not been finalised. Await more information from DOH.
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