

## National Immunisation Advisory Committee

MEETING DETAILS	
<b>Date (Venue)</b>	06.12.2021 (Teams)

ITEM	SUMMARY
<b>Introductions</b>	Permanent programme manager, M Jones, and new member nominated by the Faculty of Pathology RCPI, P Stapleton, welcomed. C Sadlier welcomed back after returning from leave. Outgoing programme manager, F McKenna thanked for her contributions to committee.
<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 – only travel-related cases of the Omicron variant detected in Ireland to date. Omicron has a growth rate advantage compared with other variants, due to immune evasion or increased transmissibility. The UK has seen an increase in the proportion of cases with S gene target failure, a proxy measure for Omicron. More data is awaited.</li> <li>• Vaccine rollout – primary courses continuing. Efforts are being targeted in areas with lower uptake. Significant progress in the third dose campaign for the immunocompromised, as well as booster doses for residents of long term care facilities, those aged 60 years and older and health care workers. Boosters for the 50-59 years group will commence shortly.</li> <li>• EMA update – safety update given. EMA to include information on frequency of myocarditis risk in the product information. EMA reviewing evidence regarding reduced dose Spikevax for those aged 5-11-years and their review of Novavax and Valneva vaccines continues.</li> <li>• Next steps –vaccine recommendations for the 5-11-year-olds are being finalised. Evidence review pertaining to booster doses for the immunocompromised and those aged 12-15-years with underlying conditions continues.</li> <li>• Chapter 5a – the wording regarding need for pregnant individuals to consult with an obstetric care-giver prior to vaccination will be removed.</li> </ul>
<b>Influenza</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 11 update – no issues with chapter updates.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rollout – uptake of influenza vaccines very variable in the under 18s, those aged 65 years and older and in risk groups across the country. NIO actively promoting LAIV uptake in children and new measures are being taken to increase uptake.</li> <li>Very low numbers of influenza cases in Ireland. There might be a slight vaccine mismatch this year, but a level of cross-protection from vaccines is expected.</li> </ul>
<b>Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG)</b>	Draft recommendations regarding high-risk groups who may require BCG shared with committee. Epidemiological information on TB in Ireland in recent years to be collated for next meeting and prior to any recommendations being made.
<b>Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data from 2020 indicate that uptake of first dose in girls and boys has been good; data on second dose uptake not available yet.</li> <li>Regarding the DOH letter on HPV catch up for those who missed out on vaccination, HIQA are carrying out a HTA on whether to extend vaccine offer to people up to 26 years or beyond. Report awaited. NIAC representative on this HIQA expert advisory group.</li> <li>Committee to review HPV dosing schedule and age range.</li> </ul>
<b>Primary Immunisation &amp; Vaccine Schedule</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replacement required for the combined Hib/Men C vaccine when it becomes unavailable. Options include replacement of Men C with Men ACWY or Men ABCWY.</li> <li>Whether to replace the MMR with the MMRV, incorporating the varicella zoster vaccine into the primary immunisation schedule, remains an important consideration. The results of the HIQA HTA on varicella zoster vaccination for children are awaited.</li> </ul> <p>Other potential changes to the primary immunisation schedule are being considered.</p>
<b>Meningococcal Infection</b>	Very few cases reported in Ireland during the pandemic. Nil to update.
<b>Varicella Zoster Virus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HIQA's HTA on varicella zoster vaccination for children and incorporation of the inactivated zoster vaccine is awaited.</li> <li>Shingrix vaccine to be made available privately in Ireland shortly. Chapter 23 has been updated to reflect this.</li> </ul>
<b>Vaccine injury redress scheme</b>	Continued to advocate for introduction of scheme. Await further information from DOH.