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IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Dear Course Organiser,

The Health Service Executive wishes to advise language colleges of the importance of vaccination for students and staff attending or assisting in courses in 2019.

Measles

Measles outbreaks are widespread in Europe and in many cases resulted from infected people travelling between countries. In Ireland, measles and mumps cases continue to occur with outbreaks already in 2019. Measles and Mumps are highly infectious. Most cases have occurred in unvaccinated individuals who can then transmit the infection to non-immune students or staff.

Vaccination with MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine is the only way to protect against measles and mumps. In Ireland the first MMR dose is given at 12 months of age, and the second dose at 4-5 years of age.

Our new video shares the facts about MMR vaccine visit <https://youtu.be/hC1w7YOXsvo>

Meningococcal group C

Meningococcal group C (MenC) infection is a serious infection that can cause meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning). Since 2000 MenC vaccine is given in Ireland to babies as part of the primary childhood immunisation with a further dose of the vaccine in secondary schools. However, most countries outside Ireland do not include MenC vaccine in their immunisation schedule.

Students and staff from any country or Ireland attending your college should ensure they have received TWO doses of MMR vaccine prior to attendance and they should be asked to provide documentation of MMR vaccination status (or of measles immunity) from their own doctor or immunisation service.

In addition students or staff aged 23 years or younger from any country or Ireland should also ensure that they have received MenC vaccine.

Vaccination of all students and staff should ensure that no cases of these diseases occur in your college. In the unlikely event that a case is identified despite the above measures, unvaccinated individuals may be requested by public health to absent themselves from the course in order to protect themselves and others.

Please alert students, parents and staff to this information in advance of attendance at your language course.

Further details are available at www.immunisation.ie

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kevin Kelleher
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National Office for Public Health/Child Health Strategic Planning and Transformation
Medical registration number 19719



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Aibreán 2019

FOLÁIREAMH TÁBHACHTACH SLÁINTE POIBLÍ

A Eagraí Cúrsa, a chara,

Is mian le Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhise Sláinte coláistí teanga a chur ar an eolas faoin tábhacht atá le vacsaíniú do dhaltaí nó baill foirne a bheidh ag freastal ar, nó ag cabhrú le cúrsaí in 2019.

An Bhruitíneach

Tá ráigeanna bruitíní go forleathan san Eoraip agus den chuid is mó is mar gheall ar dhaoine ionfhabhtaithe é ag taisteal idir tíortha. In Éirinn, tarlaonn cásanna den bhruitíneach agus den leicneach fós le ráigeanna in 2019 cheana féin. Tá an bhruitíneach agus an leicneach thar a bheith tógálach. Is gnáth go dtagann siad ar dhaoine nach bhfuil vacsaínithe agus atá in ann an t-ionfhabhtú a aistriú go daltaí/mic léinn nó baill foirne nach bhfuil imdhíonacht acu.

Is é vacsaíniú leis an vacsaín MMR (bruitíneach, leicneach agus bruitíneach dhearg) an t-aon bhealach le cosaint a chur ar fáil ar bhruitíneach agus leicneach. I gcás na hÉireann, tugtar an chéad dáileog MMR ag dhá mhí dhéag d'aois agus an dara ceann acu ag 4-5 bliana d'aois.

Roinneann ár bhfiseán nua na firici maidir leis an vacsaín MMR tabhair cuairt ar <https://youtu.be/hC1w7YOXsvo>

Grúpa Meiningeacocúil C

Is ionfhabhtú tromchúiseach é ionfhabhtú ghrúpa C meiningeacocúil (MenC) a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ina chúis le meinigíteas agus septicéime (fuilnímhiú). Ó 2000 i leith in Éirinn tugtar an vacsaín MenC do leanáí mar chuid de bhun-imdhíonadh na leanbaíochta le dáileog eile den vacsaín sa mheánscoil. Mar sin féin, ní chuireann an chuid is mó de thíortha lasmuigh d'Éirinn an vacsaín Men C san áireamh mar chuid dá gclár imdhíonta.

Ba chóir go gcinnteodh daltaí agus baill foirne ó thír ar bith nó ó Éirinn a bheith ag freastal ar do choláiste go bhfuil DHÁ dháileog den vacsaín MMR faigte acu sula bhfreastalóidh siad ar an gcúrsa agus ba chóir iarraidh orthu doiciméid a chur ar fáil faoina stádas vacsaínithe MMR (nó faoi imdhíonacht bhruitíni) óna ndochtúir féin nó ón tseirbhís imdhíonta.

Anuas air sin ní mór do mhic léinn nó foirne atá trí bliana is fiche d'aois nó níos óige ó thír ar bith nó as Éirinn a chinntí go bhfuil an vacsaín MenC faigte acu.

Ba chóir go gcinnteodh vacsaíniú na ndaltaí agus na foirne go léir nach dtarlóidh cás ar bith de na galair seo i do choláiste. Sa chás neamhdhíchúil go n-ainthnítear cás de seo in ainneoin na mbeart thusa, seans go n-iarrfaidh lucht sláinte an phobail ar dhaoine nach bhfuil vacsaínithe éirí as an gcúrsa chun iad féin agus daoine eile a chosaint.

Cuir na daltaí, tuismitheoirí agus an fhoireann ar an eolas faoi seo sula bhfreastalóidh siad ar do chúrsa teanga, le do thoil.

Tá tuilleadh sonraí ar fáil ag www.immunisation.ie

Is mise le meas,

An Dr Kevin Kelleher
Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
an Oifig Náisiúnta um Shláinte Phoiblí/Shláinte Leanaí Pleanáil Straitéiseach agus Trasfhoirmiú
Uimhir Chlárúcháin Leighis 19719