About this release

This release by Information Services Division provides an annual update on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation uptake rates for girls in their first, second and third years of secondary school (S1, S2 and S3) in 2018/19.

Main Points

- HPV immunisation uptake rates for S1 to S3 girls remained high in Scotland, 85.4% of eligible girls receiving both doses of the vaccine by the end of S3 in 2018/19. This is a small decrease for the second year in a row.

Trend in completed course HPV immunisation uptake rates for S3 girls in Scotland; School years 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Uptake of the first dose in S1 increased this year to 85.1%; this is the first time S1 uptake has increased since 2014/15, when S1 girls were first offered the vaccine.
- Uptake of the second dose of vaccine by the end of S2 was 77.9%, similar to the previous year, but down from 82.7% in 2015/16.
- Girls who missed a dose of the vaccine will be re-offered it in the following school year. This year, an additional 7.2% of girls received their second dose in S3, bringing the percentage completing the full two dose course to 85.4%.
Although uptake of the first dose of the HPV vaccine was over 90% by the end of S3 in all deprivation categories, girls from the most deprived areas were less likely to receive the second dose compared to those from the least deprived areas (81.6% vs. 89.6%).

**Background**

Vaccination programmes aim to protect the individual from many serious infectious diseases and to prevent their spread within the wider population.

The HPV immunisation programme aims to protect girls from the two types of HPV that cause around 75% of cases of cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine does not protect against all cervical cancers, so regular cervical screening is still important. The routine HPV immunisation schedule is two doses of vaccine to complete the full course, typically given in S1 and S2. Girls who have not started or completed their course of immunisations are given another opportunity to be vaccinated in S3. While no specific target for uptake of HPV immunisation in Scotland was set, the expectation was that uptake of 80% or more should be achieved for the routine programme.

There is slight variation across NHS Boards in the timing of the offer of doses of the HPV vaccine. All girls in Scotland will be offered the appropriate number of doses within the recommended intervals according to the UK Childhood immunisation schedule. Girls who have not started, or are still to complete their course of immunisations, will be offered the vaccine in school year 2019/20.

Gardasil® is the vaccine used in the immunisation programme. The Gardasil® vaccine also protects against two other types of HPV that cause around 90% of genital warts.

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**Further Information**

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page. For more information on HPV immunisation see the Immunisation section of our website or visit the Immunisation pages on NHS Inform. For related topics, please see the Child Health pages.

The next release of this publication will be in November 2020.

**ISD and Official Statistics**

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. Further information about our statistics.