



**Irish
Pharmacy
Union**
The voice of
community pharmacy

Influenza & COVID-19 Vaccination

Programmes 2026/27

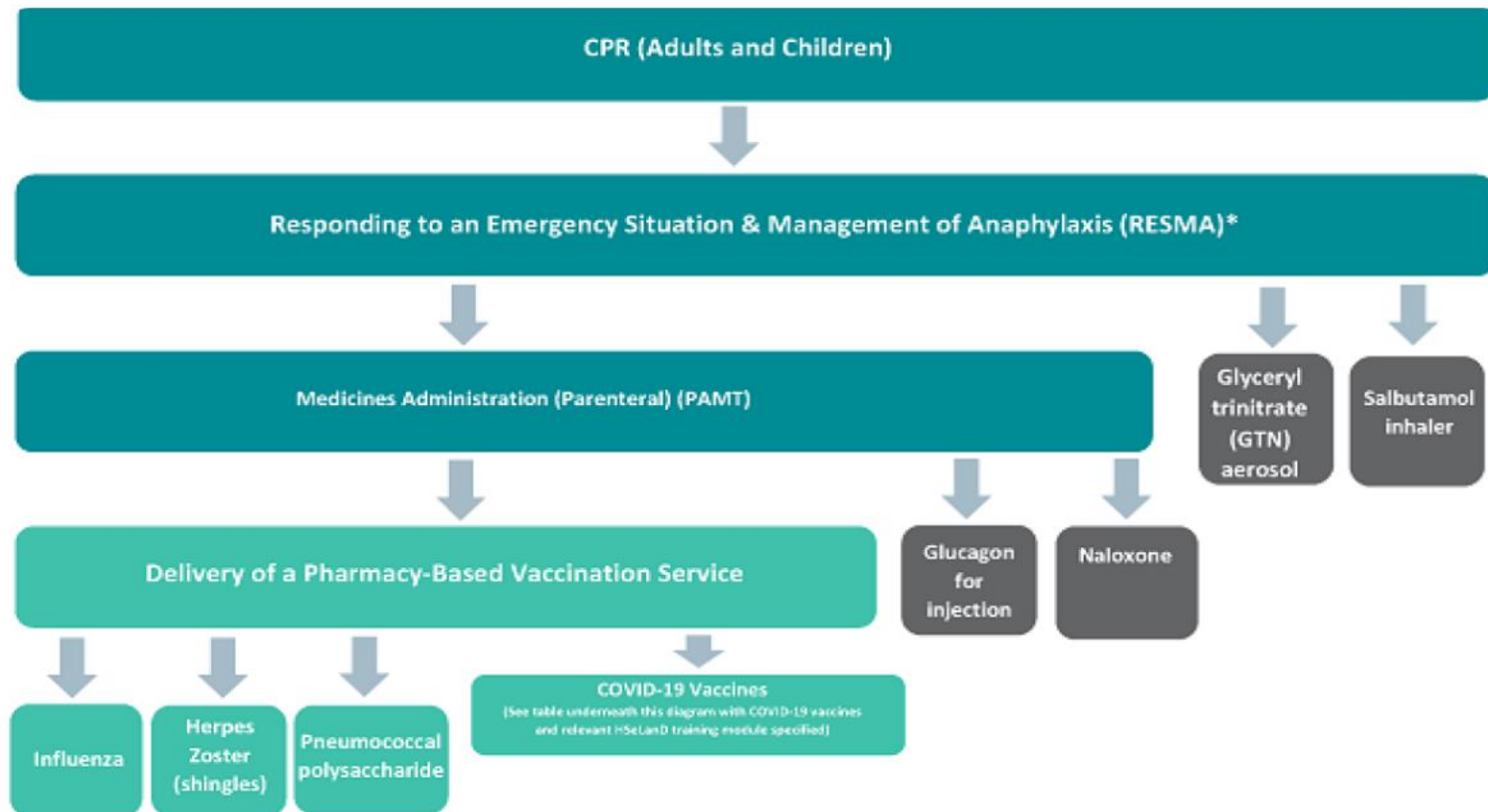
Winter Season

30 September 2026

Overview

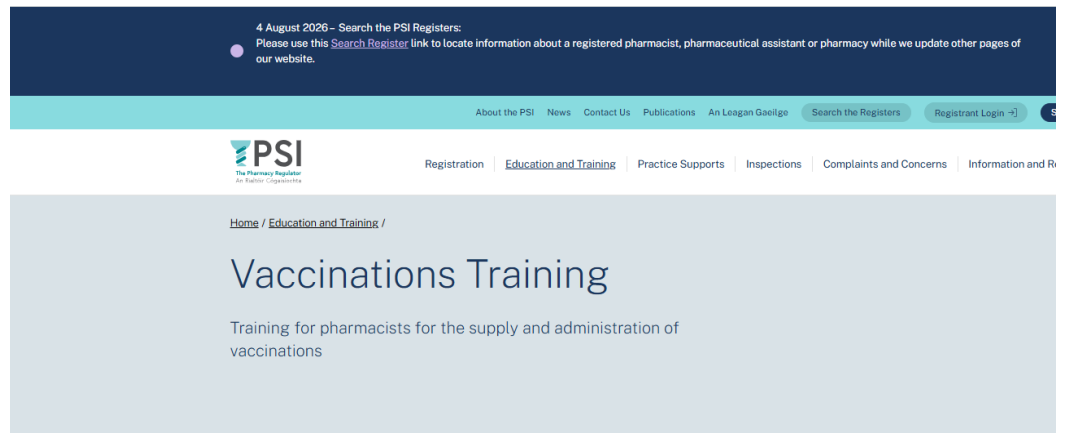
- PSI Training Requirements;
- Available Resources, including Consent Forms;
- Steps which should be undertaken when providing an LAIV Primary Schools Vaccination Service;
- HSE PharmaVax updated functionality; and
- Supports.

PSI Training Requirements



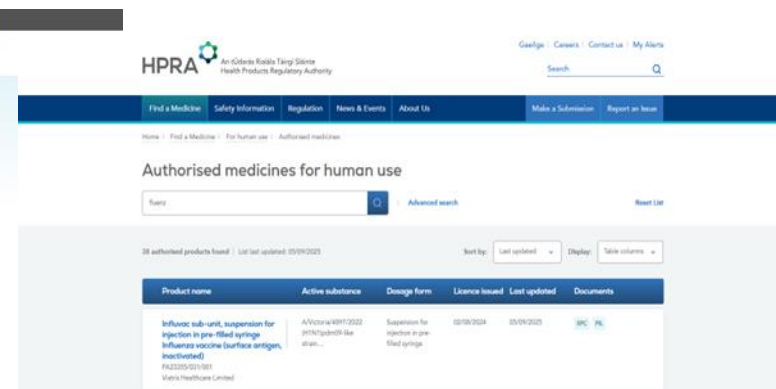
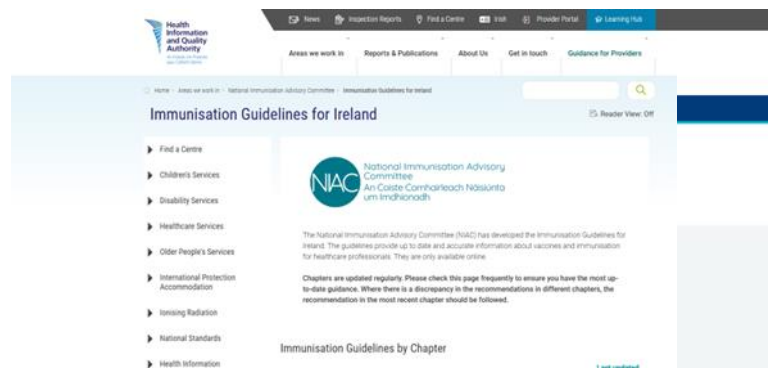
PSI Training Requirements

- Self Assessment
- PAMT
- Delivery Pharmacy-Based Vaccination Service
- Training for Specific Vaccines



Available Resources

- Legislation available at [irishstatutebook.ie](https://www.irishstatutebook.ie)
- HSE NIO Clinical information available at <https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/information-healthcare-workers/national-immunisation-office/>.
- NIAC 'Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland' & 'Recommendations and advice to the Minister for Health' available at [hiqa.ie](https://www.niac.ie)
- HPRA SmPC for each vaccine and/or emergency medicine available [hpra.ie](https://www.hpra.ie)

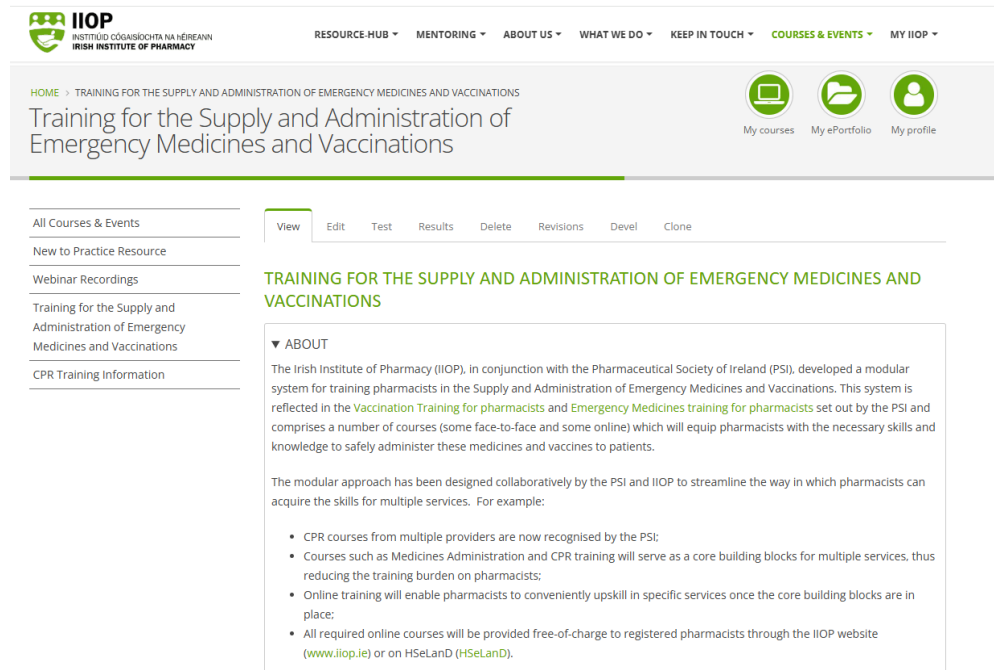


Available Resources

IIOP

Vaccination Training Identification Tool

Available at: <https://iiop.ie/content/training-supply-and-administration-emergency-medicines-and-vaccinations>



The screenshot displays the IIOP (Irish Institute of Pharmacy) website. The header includes the IIOP logo and navigation links: RESOURCE HUB, MENTORING, ABOUT US, WHAT WE DO, KEEP IN TOUCH, COURSES & EVENTS, and MY IIOP. The main content area is titled "Training for the Supply and Administration of Emergency Medicines and Vaccinations" and features icons for "My courses", "My ePortfolio", and "My profile". A sidebar on the left lists various resources: All Courses & Events, New to Practice Resource, Webinar Recordings, Training for the Supply and Administration of Emergency Medicines and Vaccinations, and CPR Training Information. The main content area has a tabbed interface with "View" selected, showing the "TRAINING FOR THE SUPPLY AND ADMINISTRATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND VACCINATIONS" page. This page includes an "ABOUT" section describing the modular training system developed by IIOP and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), and a list of key features: CPR courses recognized by the PSI, core building blocks for multiple services, online training for upskilling, and free-of-charge access for registered pharmacists.

IIOP
INSTITIÚD CÚLAISÍOCHTA NA hÉIREANN
IRISH INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY

RESOURCE HUB ▾ MENTORING ▾ ABOUT US ▾ WHAT WE DO ▾ KEEP IN TOUCH ▾ COURSES & EVENTS ▾ MY IIOP ▾

HOME ▾ TRAINING FOR THE SUPPLY AND ADMINISTRATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND VACCINATIONS

Training for the Supply and Administration of
Emergency Medicines and Vaccinations

My courses My ePortfolio My profile

All Courses & Events
New to Practice Resource
Webinar Recordings
Training for the Supply and
Administration of Emergency
Medicines and Vaccinations
CPR Training Information

View Edit Test Results Delete Revisions Devel Clone

TRAINING FOR THE SUPPLY AND ADMINISTRATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICINES AND VACCINATIONS

▼ ABOUT

The Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP), in conjunction with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), developed a modular system for training pharmacists in the Supply and Administration of Emergency Medicines and Vaccinations. This system is reflected in the **Vaccination Training for pharmacists** and **Emergency Medicines training for pharmacists** set out by the PSI and comprises a number of courses (some face-to-face and some online) which will equip pharmacists with the necessary skills and knowledge to safely administer these medicines and vaccines to patients.

The modular approach has been designed collaboratively by the PSI and IIOP to streamline the way in which pharmacists can acquire the skills for multiple services. For example:

- CPR courses from multiple providers are now recognised by the PSI;
- Courses such as Medicines Administration and CPR training will serve as a core building blocks for multiple services, thus reducing the training burden on pharmacists;
- Online training will enable pharmacists to conveniently upskill in specific services once the core building blocks are in place;
- All required online courses will be provided free-of-charge to registered pharmacists through the IIOP website (www.iiop.ie) or on HSeLand (HSeLand).

Updated Guidance

Available Resources:

- PSI Guidance available at [psi.ie](https://www.psi.ie)



Guidance on the
Provision of Vaccination
Services by Pharmacists
in Retail Pharmacy
Businesses;



Guidance on the
Provision of an
Influenza Vaccination
Service for Children
Aged 6 Months and
Older; and



Guidance to support
pharmacies in providing
safe vaccination
services offsite from the
pharmacy premises.

Guidance on the Provision of Vaccination Services by Pharmacists in Retail Pharmacy Businesses

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
Version 8, September 2022

Key changes

- Section 2.3 Pharmacist and Staff Training
- Section 2.3.4 Other Storage and Stock Requirements
- Section 2.7.2 Post Vaccination Observation and Counselling
- Section 2.8 Record Keeping
- Section 2.8 Post Vaccination Communication
- Section 3 Requirements for Specific Vaccines

Further guidance documents have been published by the PSI to support pharmacists in providing vaccination services in line with the legislation:

- Guidance on the Provision of an Influenza Vaccination Service for Children Aged 6 Months and Older
- Practical Guidance when Providing a Pharmacy Vaccination Service During COVID-19
- Guidance to Support Pharmacists in Providing Safe Vaccination Services Offsite from the Pharmacy Premises

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Consent Forms

IIV and aIIV

Vaccination consent form for people receiving Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV) or Adjuvanted Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (aIIV) IIV - Vaxigrip or Influvac Sub-unit aIIV – Fluad (**Version 7.0 September 2026**)

LAIV

HSE Nasal Flu Vaccination Consent Form for children aged 2-17 years (Fluenz LAIV) (**Version 4.0 September 2026**)

COVID-19

Vaccination Consent Form for people receiving COVID-19 vaccine For the latest Comirnaty® antigenically updated vaccine available for people 6 months of age and older (**Version 16.0 September 2026**)

LAIV Schools Programme

Relevant Guidance

PSI Guidance to Support Pharmacies in Providing Safe Vaccination Services Offsite from the Pharmacy Premises; and

HSE Toolkit to Support the Administration of the Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) Fluenz Nasal Spray Suspension to Children in School Settings by Primary Care

LAIV Schools Programme

Composition of Immunisation Teams

At least two trained vaccinators should attend each vaccination clinic.

If two trained vaccinators cannot attend, then one trained vaccinator must attend with an **appropriately trained healthcare worker trained in the management of anaphylaxis and basic life support**, working under the clinical governance of the Registered Pharmacist.

- IPU Professional Academy module ‘Anaphylaxis Identification and Management for Healthcare Workers’
- Have/obtain a valid certificate in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)



LAIV Schools Programme

IPU Guidance and Template Risk Assessment for Off-site Vaccination in a Primary School Setting

Guidance

As outlined within PSI Guidance to Support Pharmacies in Providing Safe Vaccination Services Offsite from the Pharmacy Premises and HSE Toolkit to Support the Administration of the Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) Fluenz nasal spray suspension to Children in School or Community Settings by Primary Care prior to providing a vaccination service at an offsite location, the superintendent pharmacist must ensure a robust risk assessment has been undertaken to assess whether the location is a suitable and appropriate place in accordance with the regulations. This should include consideration as to any additional challenges or risks which may arise, and the necessary mitigations. This should include, but is not limited to, the transportation and storage of vaccines and the recognition and management of adverse events in school settings.

Steps in the risk assessment process:

1. Identify the hazard.
2. Identify the risk associated with the hazard.
3. Assess the risk, taking account of existing control measures and their effectiveness.
4. Identify if any extra control measures or actions required.
5. Assign an Action Owner
6. Document any relevant information and status of the action in the Notes/Status column

Record the risk assessment:

The results of the risk assessment must be recorded.

Monitor and Review: Control measures must be evaluated regularly. This should be done through a monitoring and review system. Staff and patients should be encouraged to provide feedback on the provision of the service. All concerns or queries should be addressed, and the superintendent pharmacist should ensure that relevant procedures are regularly reviewed and updated following feedback from staff and patients, to continually improve the quality and safety of the service. Risk assessments must be kept up to date and must be reviewed when there is a significant change such as the premises, work practices or procedures or where there is evidence that the risk assessment is no longer valid. Amend the risk assessment as necessary following the review. It is best practice to review risk assessments at least

LAIV Schools Programme

IPU Guidance and Template Risk Assessment for Off-site Vaccination in a Primary School Setting

Hazard	Risk	Control Measures/Action Required	Action Owner	Notes/Status
Team Composition & Competence	Insufficient staff to support the vaccinating pharmacist with patient flow and administrative elements of the service	Ensure adequate numbers of staff to manage volume of children.	Those in Governance Roles	
	Insufficient number of staff with the required level of training to support with the management of anaphylaxis and basic life support	At least two trained vaccinators should attend each vaccination clinic. If two trained vaccinators cannot attend, then one trained vaccinator must attend with an appropriately trained healthcare worker trained in the management of anaphylaxis and basic life support, working under the clinical governance of the Registered Pharmacist.	Those in Governance Roles	
	Team members not having completed relevant SOPs	Ensure all team members are trained on the following SOP's {List relevant SOP's -for example: SOP for the provision of a LAIV off-site service SOP for the management of anaphylaxis SOP for the management of temperature breaches for cold chain products SOP for the management and prevention of needle stick or sharps injury SOP for the management of sharps and clinical waste SOP for the management of incidents (administration/dispensing errors & Open Disclosure Policy)}	Those in Governance Roles	
	Vaccinating Pharmacist not appropriately trained	Ensure all pharmacists have completed all appropriate training as outlined by the PSI in relation to Vaccinations Training available at https://www.psi.ie/education-and-training/vaccinations-training	Those in Governance Roles /Vaccinator	

LAIV Schools Programme

Primary Care Contractors

- Notify the HSE of planned clinics, Service Provider/School arrangement for the LAIV Primary Schools Programme
- Consent form, algorithm, faq, toolkit and patient information material such as factsheet are available on NIO website to support this activity.
(<https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/information-healthcare-workers/national-immunisation-office/influenza-flu-and-covid-19-vaccination-programme-20262027/>)
- Flu- LAIV School Packs (Consent form, LAIV leaflet, Information letter) are available to order from Healthpromotion.ie (code HNI01730).

Available at

<https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/information-healthcare-workers/pcrs/laiv-primary-schools-programme-20262027/>

[Staff](#) > [Information for healthcare professionals](#) > [PCRS](#)

LAIV Primary Schools Programme 2026/2027

- [Primary Schools LAIV Template \(More than 5 Primary Schools\) \(Excel, 27 KB\)](#)
- [Service Provider or School Arrangement Form for the LAIV Primary Schools Programme 2026/2027 \(PDF, 448 KB, 2 pages\)](#)
- [Service Provider or School Arrangement Form for the LAIV Primary Schools Programme 2026/2027 - Irish \(PDF, 147 KB, 2 pages\)](#)
- [LAIV Schools Programme FAQs \(Word, 26 KB, 5 pages\)](#)

Circulars

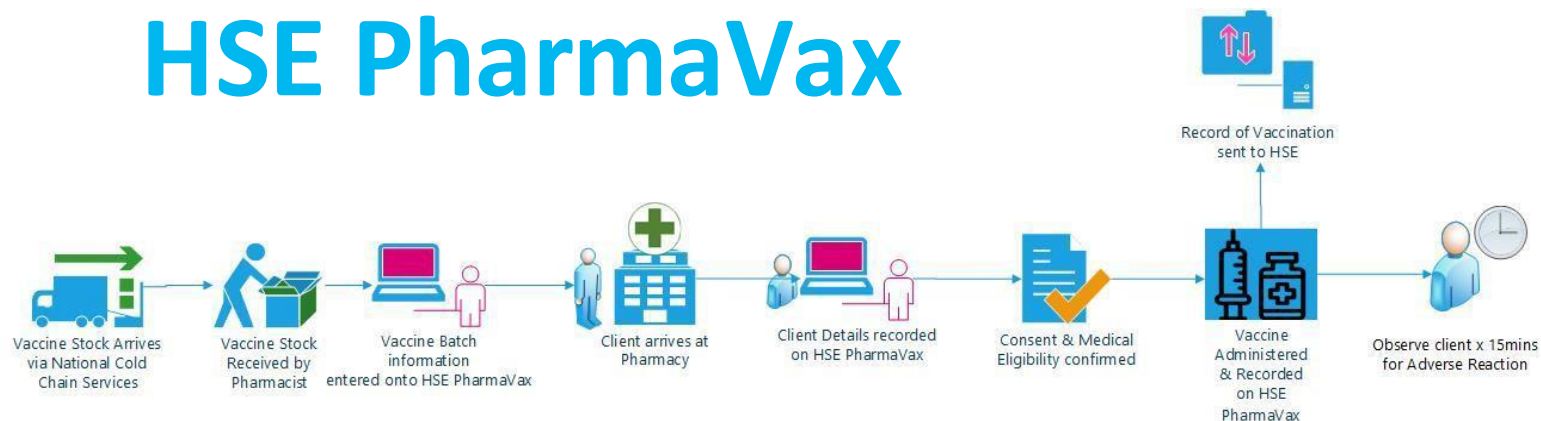
- [GP Circular NCO-17-2026 - LAIV Primary Schools Programme Operational Planning 2026/2027](#)

HSE PharmaVax Updates



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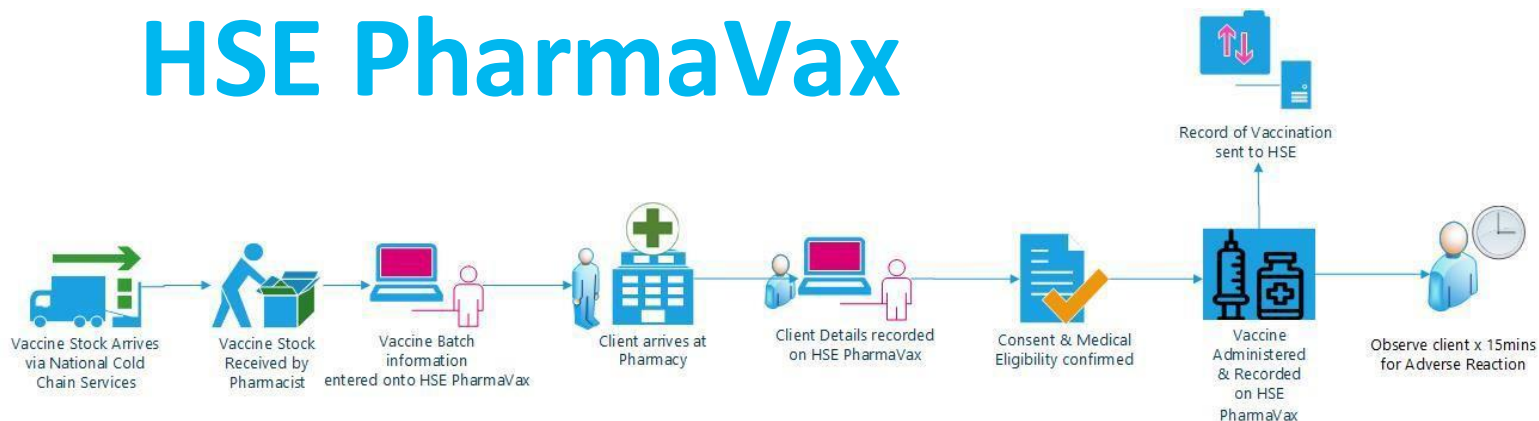
HSE PharmaVax



Updated Functionality

- Pre-population of client demographics from the HSE Data Lake is now available for new client registrations.
- Helps reduce duplicate client records.
- Client and Vaccination Lists can now be searched using a Date of Birth range.

HSE PharmaVax



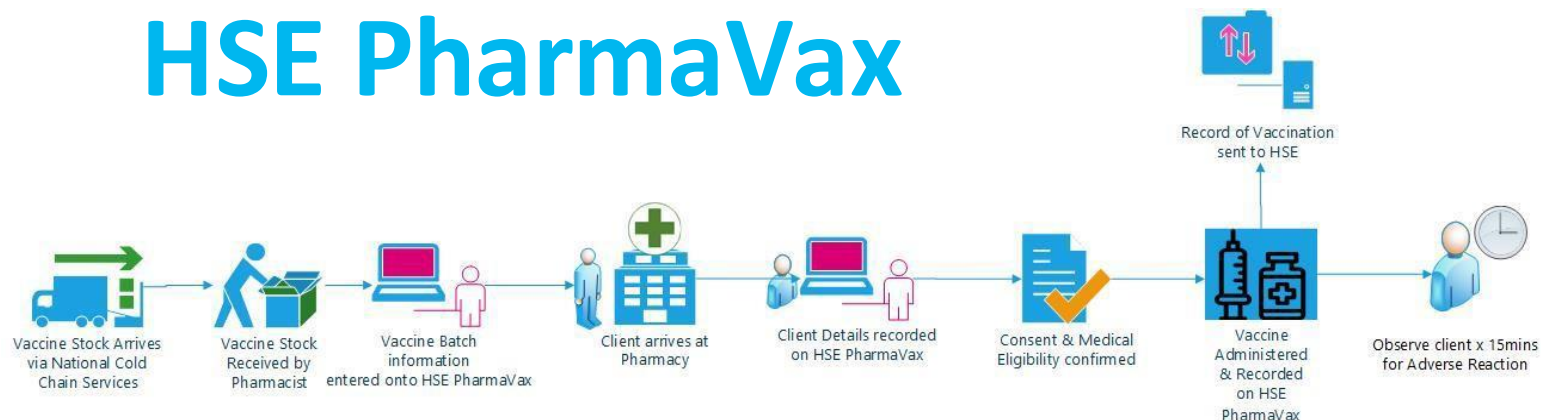
Schools & Clinic Recording Tips

Two-Tab Workflow

- In Google Chrome, right-click an open tab and select Duplicate.
- Use one tab for List Clients.
- Use the second tab for Add Vaccinations.
- Copy and paste the PPSN from List Clients into the Add Vaccinations search bar.

Benefit: Faster recording during school and off-site vaccination clinics.

HSE PharmaVax



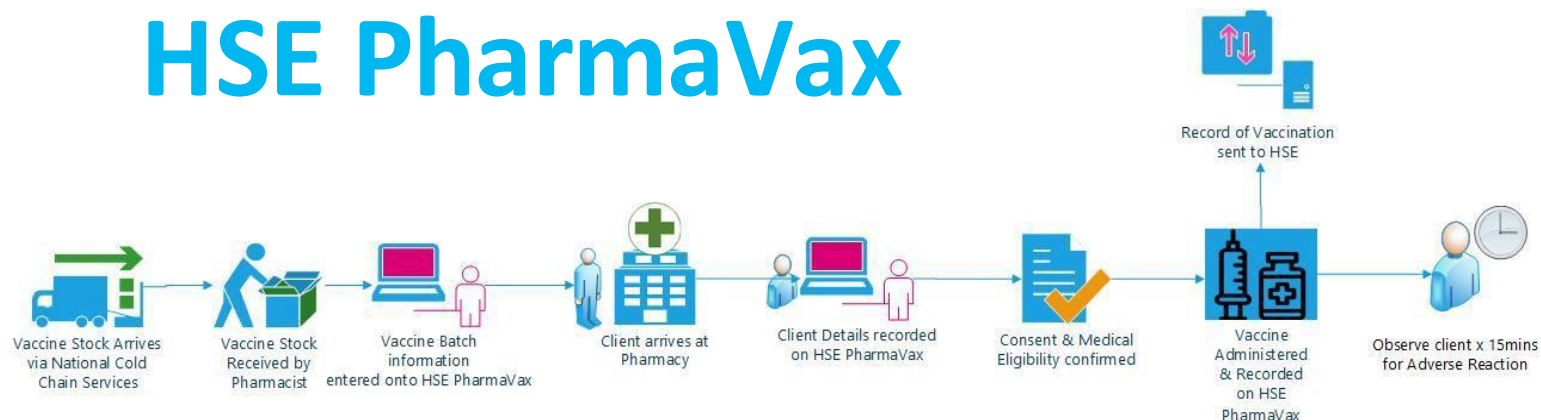
Schools & Clinic Recording Tips

Vaccination Location Setup

- Find the school using the Facility Search field.
- Record the Facility ID or School Roll Number for future reference.
- Select Set as Temp Vaccination Location.

This allows the school location to be used efficiently throughout the clinic session.

HSE PharmaVax

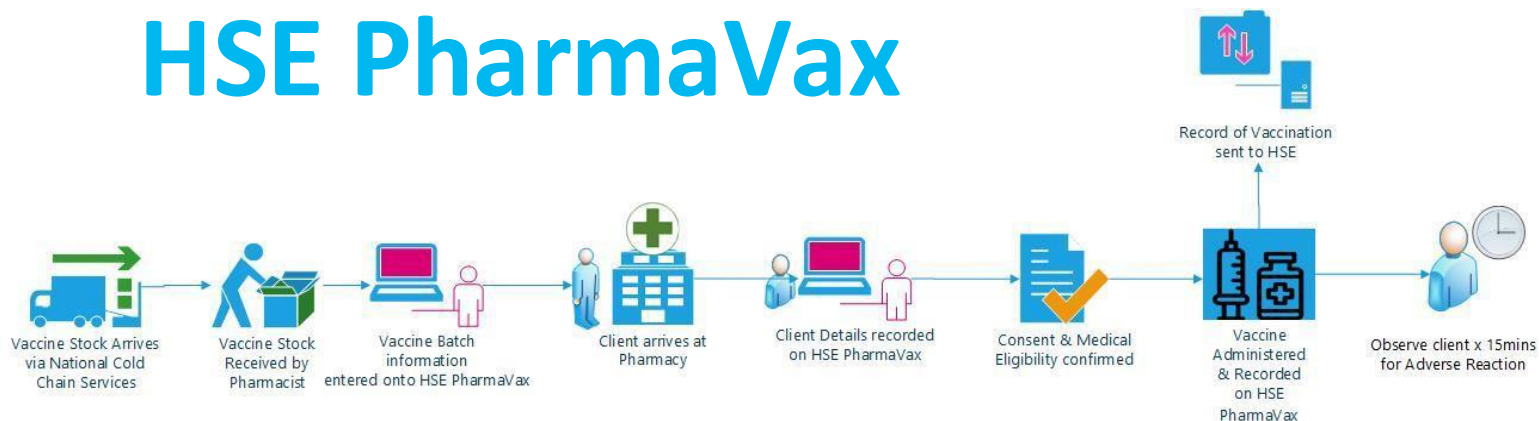


Schools & Clinic Recording Tips

Save Time During Clinics

- After setting the school as the temporary vaccination location:
 - Use the two-tab workflow.
 - Record vaccinations for all children at the clinic.
- Use Save and Add Another Vaccination to retain the school as the default location.

HSE PharmaVax



Notifications

Recent changes include a new Notifications area on the Home Screen.

- Important vaccination updates will be published here.
- New notifications may appear at any time.
- Users should check notifications each time they log in.

Welcome to the HSE PharmaVax System

[Confidentiality Notice](#)

Notifications



Critical Notification

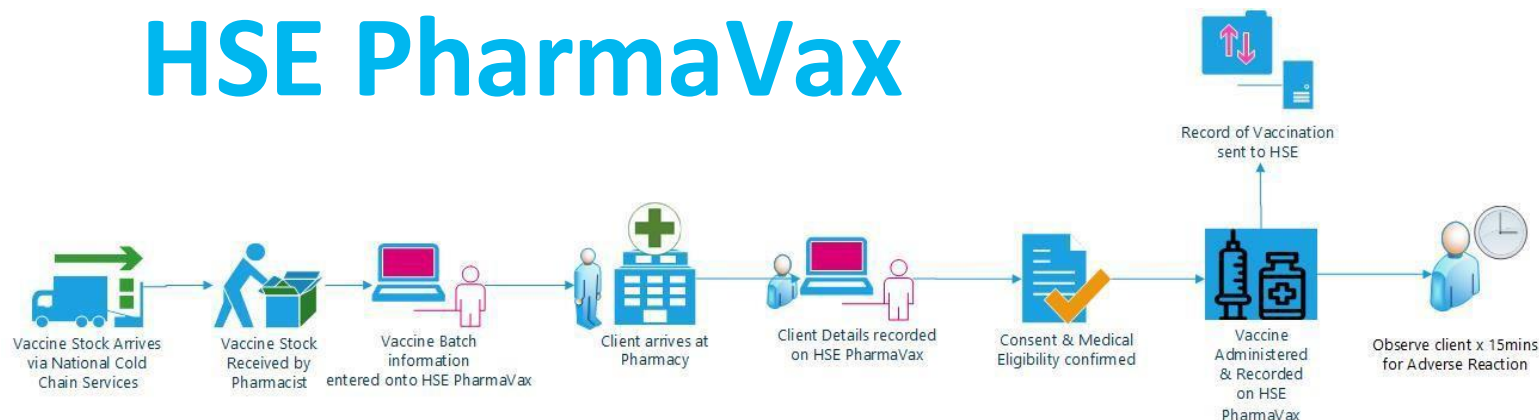
This is a message for down time tomorrow header



Information

Test

HSE PharmaVax



Indications for Vaccination

Changes to recording requirements:

- Risk Factors field has been replaced by Indications for Vaccination.
- Options reduced from over 40 selections to 6.
- New Healthcare Worker question must be completed.
- Pharmacists should select all applicable indications.
- Some fields will be auto-populated or hidden based on eligibility criteria.

Va

☒ Eligible on grounds of age for current campaign

☐ Eligible due to medical risk factor (excluding immunocompromised)

☐ Patient Pregnant

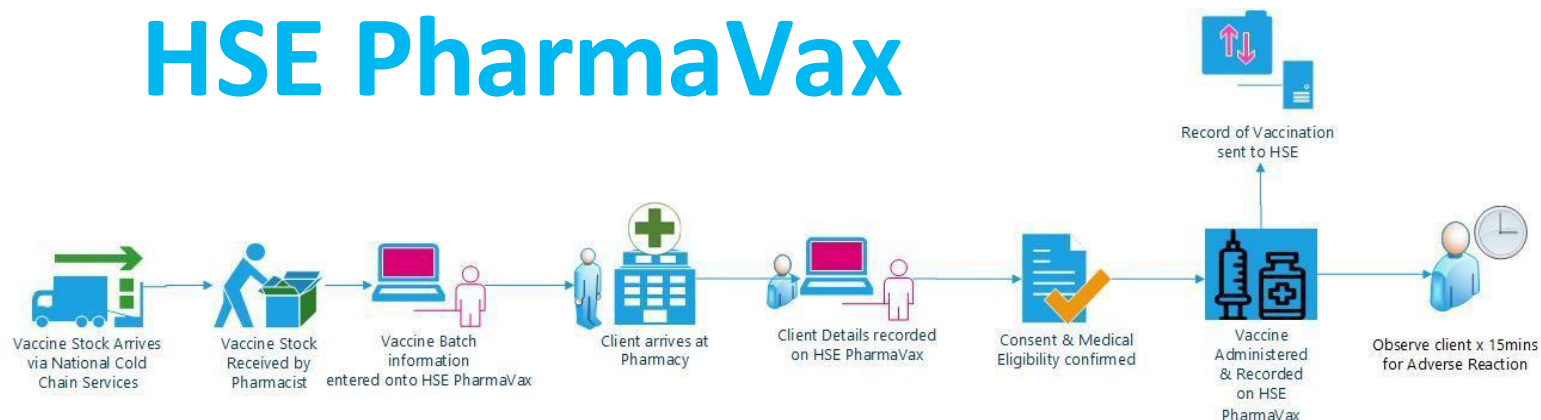
☐ Eligible due to living in a long-term care facility

☐ Eligible due to other reason

☐ Patient Immunocompromised

Eligible on grounds of age for current campaign ▼

HSE PharmaVax

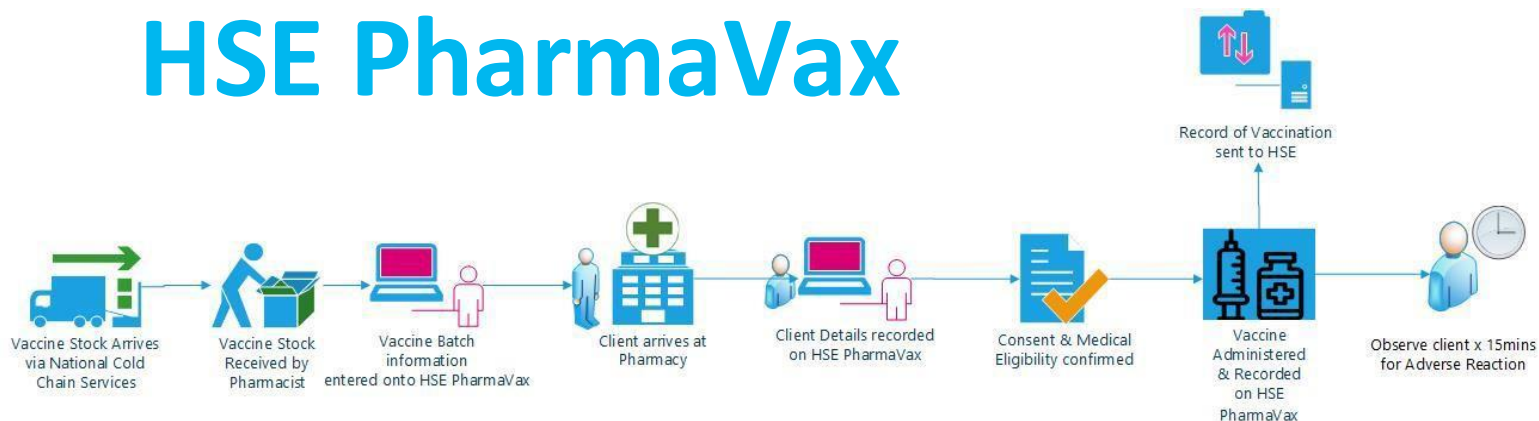


Private Shingles Recording

- Private Shingles vaccinations can now be recorded in PharmaVax.
- Recording satisfies HSE notification and legislative requirements.
- More than 2,000 Shingles vaccinations have been recorded since functionality was introduced on 1 August 2026.

Vaccination Type Shingles vaccination	Payor Type ☐ HSE Public ☒ Private Patient PCRS Medical Card 'Eligibility Status Check'	
Medically Eligible ☒	Identity Verified ☒	Consent Given Yes
Vaccination Date 31/07/2026	Age at Vaccination Date 18 Years, 0 Months, 30 Days	Ethnicity Arabs

HSE PharmaVax



Software Releases

Scheduled maintenance window:

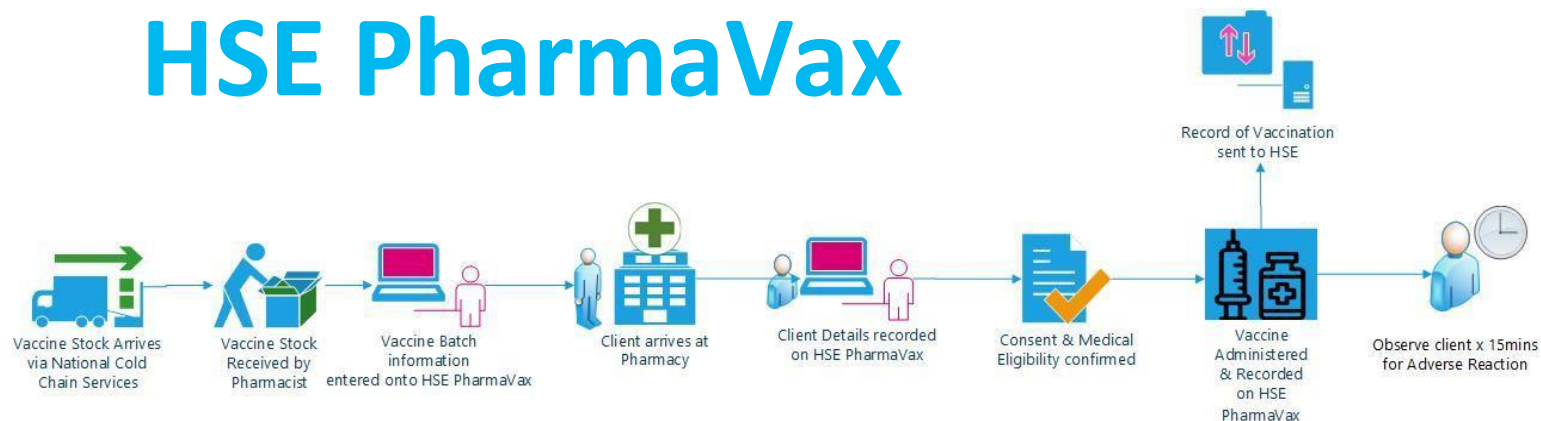
- 8:30am to 9:30am, typically Thursdays

Indicative release dates:

- 01/10/2026
- 22/10/2026
- 12/11/2026
- 10/12/2026
- 14/01/2027

Dates may change. Updates will be communicated through Home Screen Notifications.

HSE PharmaVax



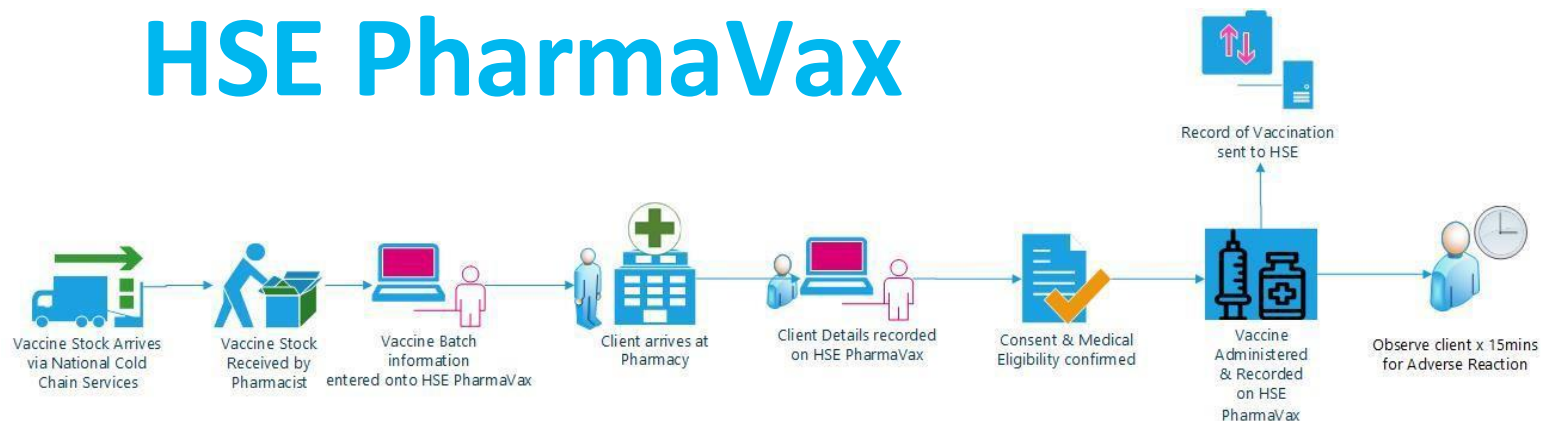
Support Improvements

A new Support Contacts page has been introduced to improve query resolution.

Support Email Addresses

- Preferred
 - HPPVacSupport@healthmail.ie
- Secondary
 - HPPVacSupport@hse.ie

HSE PharmaVax

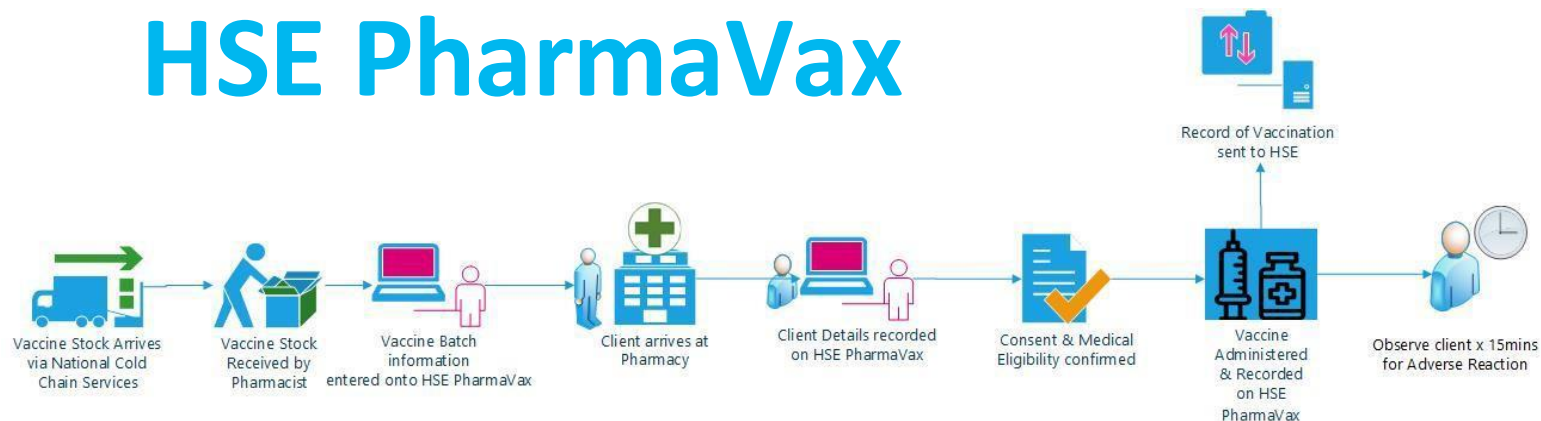


Support Improvements

The new Support page contains relevant contact information and the latest Pharmavax User Guide.

The screenshot shows the HSE PharmaVax Support page. On the left is a dark sidebar with a menu containing: Clients, Vaccinations, Batches, Reports, Vaccinators, Notifications, Search, Registration, and Support (highlighted). The main content area has a top bar with 'PharmaVax (2)', a back arrow, a user icon 'F', and a 'Log out' button. Below this, there are two boxes: 'User Manual' with a link to 'View the latest User Guide', and 'Need HPP Vaccination Support?' with a link to 'Our support team is here for you'. The main section is titled 'SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION' and contains three boxes: 'HEALTH PROVIDER PORTAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT' (listing issues like Patient Management, Recording Vaccinations, Batch Management, Corrections / System Errors, and Updates for PCRS Contractor number), 'PRIMARY CARE' (describing the role of Primary Care in enabling, supporting, overseeing, and coordinating vaccination services), and 'VACCINE ORDERS' (stating that vaccines can be ordered through the HSE National Cold Chain Service and queries should be directed to NCC). To the right of these boxes are contact details: Email: HPPVaccSupport@healthmail.ie, Phone: (021) 492 8787, Email: vaccinations.primarycarecontractors@hse.ie, Phone: (01) 463 7770, Fax: (01) 463 7788, and Email: vaccines@udd.ie.

HSE PharmaVax

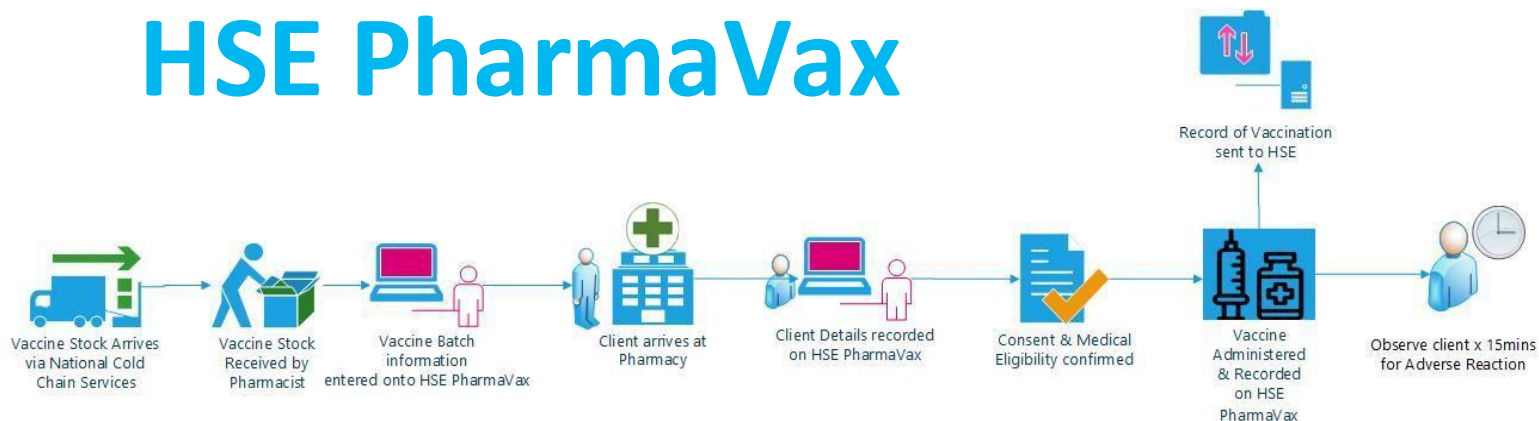


Coming Soon

New functionality planned:

- Batch start dates;
- Dynamic display of vaccine batches based on vaccination date;
- Dedicated PharmaVax FAQs; and
- Expanded support contact information.

HSE PharmaVax



Coming Soon - Sessions

The **Save as Default** option allows users to save common, non-patient-specific vaccination values and reuse them when recording several vaccinations with similar details.

Vaccination Details		
Fluenz nasal spray suspension Influenza vaccine (live nasal) 2026/2027 applicator		
Product Name *		
Fluenz 2026-27 (AstraZeneca AB)		
Batch *	Course *	Dose *
FLUENZ2026, EXPIRY DATE 30/06/2027	Primary Course	Primary Course Dose 1 (0.2 ml)
Administration Route	Body Site	Does This Dose Complete The Course?
Intranasal (IN)	Bilateral Nares (Nostrils)	Select...
Search for Facility ID, Facility Details, Facility Address, School Roll No or Registration ID...		☐ Set as Temp Vaccination Location
Facility ID		
002280		
Facility Details		
Nursing Home Test 2, Southgate Shopping Centre, xxx		
Set Defaults Clear Defaults		
Save	Save and add another vaccination	Cancel ...

HSE PharmaVax



Resources

Details of all updates are published in the latest PharmaVax User Guide.

HSE Supports

Vaccination Primary Care Contractors Webpage

Stand-alone webpage for communicating with Community Pharmacies

Links to

- Operational Guidance;
- Guidance notes;
- Circulars; and
- Contact Details.

Information for Community Pharmacies

To take part in the vaccination programme for COVID-19 and influenza you require:

- A community pharmacy contract with PCRS
- A national cold chain account
- And be registered to use HSE PharmaVax

[Community Pharmacy Agreement 2025 \(gov.ie\)](#)

Operational guidance for vaccination in community pharmacies

Operational guidance is updated in response to any changes to National

Available at: <https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/information-healthcare-workers/pcrs/vaccination-primary-care-contractors-programme/>

HSE Supports

Pharmacy Finder

- The Pharmacy Service Listing form to add/update the pharmacy details is available at <https://www.forms.hse.ie/en/689c93c46f083c0019e3650b-pharmacy-service-listing-reque>
- Review and update details in advance of winter season.

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/find-a-vaccine/>

Find a vaccine

Search for pharmacies offering the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine in Ireland. Ask your GP if they offer vaccines.

Search by place

Enter a name or address and select an option from the list

[Use your current location](#)

[See our privacy statement](#)

Filters applied (0)

Service

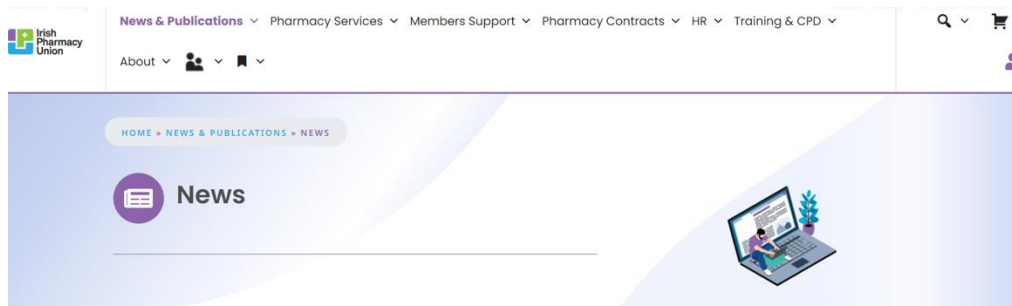
☐ Adult flu vaccine

Showing 1 to 10 of 1025 results

Sorted alphabetically

IPU Supports

1. eNewsletter
2. IPU.ie News Section
3. Social Media Platforms
4. IPU Vaccination Hubs
5. IPU Review



The IPU actively demonstrates the valuable contribution that community pharmacists make within the Irish healthcare system. Raising the profile of the profession, we engage in public relations, consumer advertising and lobbying of politicians and other stakeholders. We commission market

News & Publications

News



Medication Safety
Lara Marín MPSI

Medication safety: Pharmaceutical-grade refrigerator

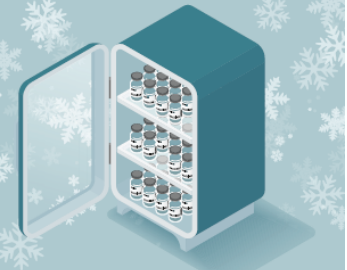
Professional Services Pharmacist, Lara Marín talks in this article about pharmaceutical grade refrigerators requirements including specifications, temperature monitoring and advice on cold chain breaches.

Storing medicinal products within the temperatures advised by the product's manufacturing company is very important as a deviation from this practice may have a negative impact on patient safety and could result in the waste of medicines, as they may need to be disposed of. A cold chain medicine is a medicinal product that requires storage at a specific temperature range. Cold chain medicines stored in a pharmacy are required to be stored in pharmaceutical grade refrigerators between 2°C and 8°C in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Therefore, if a cold chain medicine is stored outside the recommended storage conditions, this will pose an immediate risk to members of the public as the pharmacist cannot ensure the continued therapeutic effectiveness of the medicinal product.

Pharmaceutical grade refrigerator

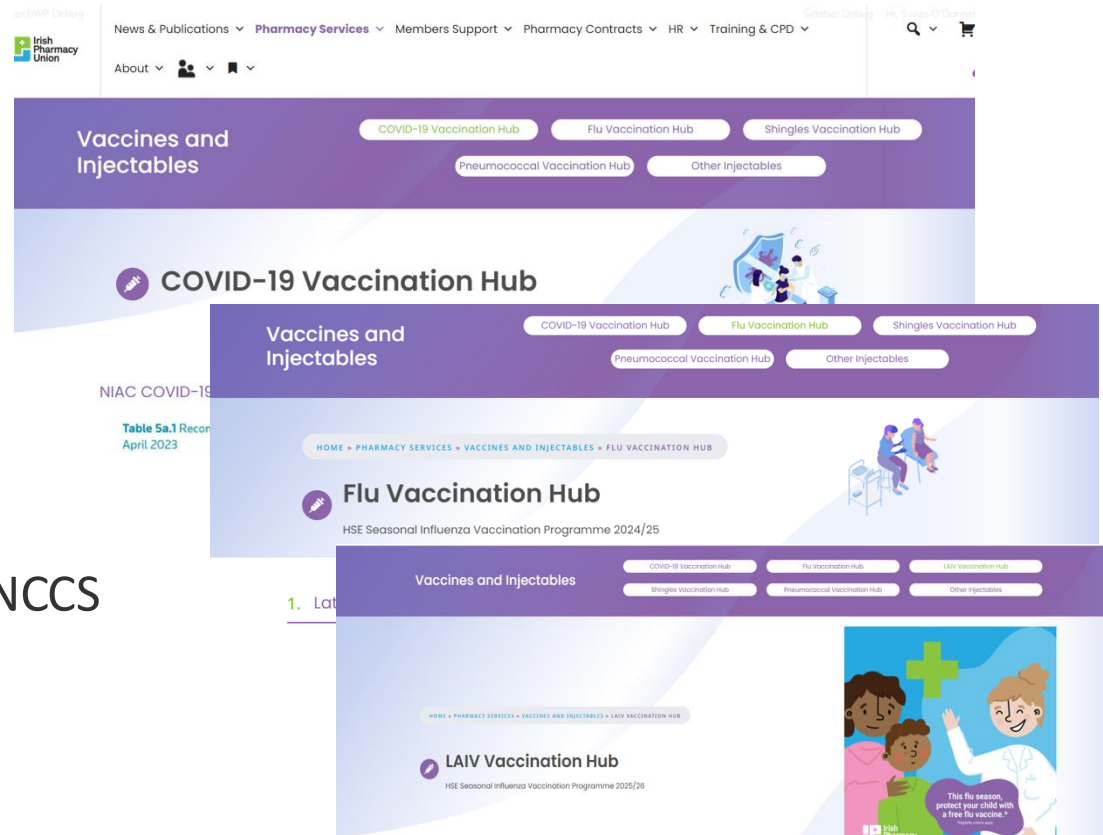
To ensure that cold chain medicines are stored appropriately, pharmacies are required to have a pharmaceutical-grade refrigerator at the pharmacy. These refrigerators include features in their design that facilitate having a constant temperature within the refrigerator with small variations, and promote the stability of the cold chain medicinal products stored inside. Those features are:

- Solid or glass door that is lockable: This feature not only controls access to the medicines but also ensures that the door is always closed to maintain the required temperature within the refrigerator;
- Fan operated: This feature forces cooling air to ensure temperature stability and uniform throughout the inside of the refrigerator;



IPU Vaccination Hubs- Flu, LAIV and Covid 19

1. SOPs & Policies
2. Consent Form
3. Vaccine Information
4. Operational Guidance
5. Guidance Documents
6. Legislation
7. Promotional Material
8. Support Material
9. Training Links
10. Useful Links – PSI Guidance /NCCS



Queries

Operational Queries pharmacists@ipu.ie

Clinical Queries immunisation@hse.ie



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community pharmacy