

St Pius X National Schools Parents Association

Since last May, the Parents Association researched the possibility of offering the HPV Vaccine (Vaccine to help prevent Cervical Cancer) with Parental Consent to girls in 6th Class. Through the partnership with other schools in the locality – we sought to provide the vaccine at reduced prices (prices varied from €300-€600).

However as you may be aware the Minister for Health, Minister Mary Harney made a recent statement offering the vaccine free to girls in 1st Year of the Secondary School Cycle for this year. It was unclear whether this would be an ongoing commitment and whether the programme would be extended to other class years.

A member of our Parents Association requested that Deputy Sean Ardagh put the question to Minister Mary Harney - please see below for the response.

DÁIL QUESTION

addressed to the Minister for Health and Children (Ms. Harney (Dublin Mid-West))

by Deputy Seán Ardagh

for **WRITTEN ANSWER** on **26/01/2010**

* To ask the Minister for Health and Children if she will confirm that the human papillomavirus cervical vaccine will continue free of charge into the future; the age group that will be targeted; if it will be extended to include girls from first to sixth year in secondary school; if it is planned to include girls in sixth class primary school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. Seán Ardagh T.D.

REPLY.

Recently I requested the HSE to initiate a tendering process for the procurement of a HPV vaccine with a view to commencing a HPV vaccination programme for all girls in first year in secondary school. This tendering process for the vaccine is now complete. We can now purchase the vaccine at a price much lower than we expected to pay in 2008 and at a price much closer to what is being paid in other countries. In these circumstances, the programme can now be delivered from the extra resources committed in this year's budget to the overall Cancer Programme. The HSE is committed to starting this campaign during the current school year. This will involve the free vaccination of up to 30,000 girls mainly in school settings and an announcement of the details of the full programme involved will be made by the HSE in the near future. The programme will continue with vaccine being offered to all girls in first year in secondary school each year but it is not proposed to extend the vaccination programme to other classes at present.