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**8<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Re: Decline in uptake of primary childhood immunisations**

Dear Mary,

There has been a decline in the uptake of primary childhood immunisations in many countries in Europe including Ireland, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic. Declines in immunisation coverage is a real concern, leaving young children vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases, and leading to a risk of outbreaks. The World Health Organization has highlighted the high risk of cross-border importation of vaccine-preventable diseases in Europe due to declines in immunity, as global travel returns to pre-pandemic levels.

As part of measures to address the decline in immunisation uptake, we have developed a toolkit for GPs and Practice Nurses to support you in maximising uptake of childhood immunisations in your practice. The toolkit includes advice on catch-up vaccination, a summary of evidence-based interventions to increase vaccination uptake, materials to support communication with parents who may be hesitant about vaccination, and promotion materials that can be shared on social media.

I would be grateful if this toolkit could be shared with your members. It is available from <https://bit.ly/PCIToolkit>.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment and support to our National immunisation Programmes and we look forward to future collaborations with you.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Lucy Jessop  
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