



Country Meeting 2026

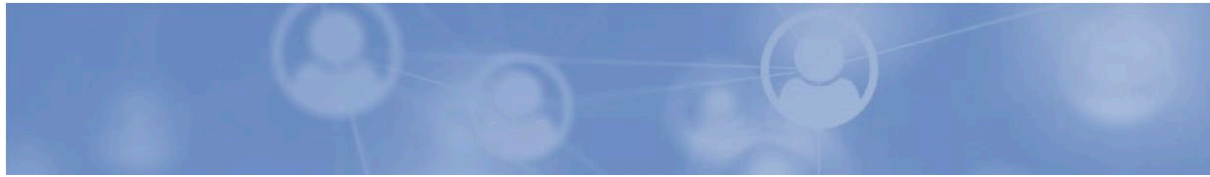
Adult Immunization in Ireland: successes, lessons learned and the way forward



Draft Agenda

18 – 19 November 2026

Dublin, Ireland



Intended Impact

This invitation-only AIB country meeting in November 2026 aims to advance a shared understanding of the current state of adult immunization in Ireland and explore how national insights can inform wider European cooperation and policy development. The purpose is to assess how adult vaccination is embedded within Ireland's health system and to identify opportunities to strengthen life-course immunization in line with EU priorities.

Country meetings are organized to discuss country-specific aspects of adult immunization together with local experts. During these meetings, the board invites local academics, health care professionals, public health representatives and policy makers and representatives from the Ministry of Health to present on adult immunization strategies implemented in the country where the meeting is organized, as well as educational, communication and community initiatives aimed at increasing adult vaccine acceptance. The AIB advisors contribute both their own country's expertise and insights gathered from previous country and technical meetings. The aim of these meetings is to establish a collaborative network of (inter)national experts of different fields, creating a platform for the exchange of knowledge and best practices in adult immunization. The location of the country meeting is determined based on advisors' recommendations, taking into account factors such as the political landscape, public health situation, the current state of adult immunization implementation, potential collaborations with stakeholders, and opportunities for learning.

This meeting will generate practical recommendations to support resilient, equitable adult vaccination systems aligned with EU health objectives. The meeting materials and outcomes will be disseminated widely to maximize impact across European public health communities

Target Audience

- Irish and European public health authorities, policymakers, academic experts, and stakeholders involved in Life-course immunization planning and delivery;
- AIB advisors and observers

Meeting Venue

The meeting will take place in Dublin, Ireland – **HOTEL RIU Plaza Gresham Dublin**

The meeting will start on **Wednesday, November 18th 2026**, from 9h00 – 17h00 CEST; the end is foreseen on Thursday **November 19th 2026**, from around 9h00 - 15h00 CEST.

Meeting Objective

1. Review the structure of the healthcare system in Ireland, focusing on how adult vaccination programs are integrated into the national vaccination plan. Analyze current policies and strategies for adult vaccination, highlight political and governmental support for the expansion of immunization program. Discuss the purchase, distribution and funding of adult vaccines.
2. Provide an overview of the epidemiology and disease burden of VPI (vaccine-preventable infections) among adults in Ireland. Explain the functioning of infectious disease surveillance and control programs in Ireland. Discuss the effectiveness of current surveillance systems in detecting and responding to vaccine-preventable diseases in adults.
3. Explore the organization and delivery of adult vaccination services from different perspectives. Review the success of delivery through community-based pharmacists.
4. Discuss the recording and reporting of vaccination data in Ireland, including coverage rate, vaccine impact monitoring and vigilance practices.
5. Analyze the population's vaccination demand and acceptance, addressing issues such as vaccine confidence.
6. Present the strategies and programs implemented in Ireland to vaccinate specific adult population groups, highlighting the challenges and opportunities.
7. Explore future prospects and potential solutions to overcome barriers and enhance adult immunization efforts in Ireland and other European countries.

Meeting Agenda

DAY 1 – November 18th, 2026

Session 1: Opening, introduction and objectives		
Chairs:		
<i>Objective: Set the stage for the meeting by introducing participants, the AIB, and the rationale for focusing on Ireland. Clarify meeting goals and expected outcomes.</i>		
9.00	Opening remarks	
9.05	Introduction of the AIB	
9.15	Meeting objectives (background and rationale)	Karina Butler Former chair of NIAC
9.30	Tour de table	

Session 2: Healthcare system and the adult immunization plan		
Chairs:		
Objective:		
	Ireland: health system summary	Prof Mary Horgan [TBC] Chief Medical Officer Chief Medical Officer, Professor of Infectious Diseases UCD School of Medicine
	Ireland's National (Adult) Immunization Plan: current status and upcoming changes	Karina Butler Former chair of NIAC
	Vision and Strategic Approach to Adult Immunization or Life course immunization in Ireland <i>Basis: Ireland's population aged 65+ rose by over 40% between 2013–2023 (Older Persons Information Hub, 2024); ILC/SAATI "Adult Vaccination: A Key Component of Healthy Ageing" report (life-course immunisation and healthy ageing rationale)</i>	Dr Colm Kerr [TBC]
	Discussion	
	Coffee Break	
Session 3: Overview of the epidemiology and disease burden of VPIs among adults		
Chairs:		
Objective:		
	Epidemiology of vaccine-preventable diseases among adults in Ireland <i>Basis: HPSC Immunisation Uptake Statistics; HSE Health Protection Strategy 2022–2027 (Year 3 Implementation Report); Annual VPD epidemiology reporting.</i>	Speaker: [TBD]
	The need for elderly vaccination in Ireland, progress in immunisation and its benefits and the need to afford the benefits across the age	Suggested speaker: Prof Luke O'Neill School of Biochemistry and Immunology, Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, Trinity College Dublin (TBC)
	Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine for older adults <i>Based on: Philip, R. K., et al. (2026). "Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) notifications and trends in the transmission cycles from infants and young children to older adults in Ireland: an analysis of incidence shifts over a decade." BMJ Open 16(1): e107050.</i>	Roy K Philip University of Limerick

	The burden of herpes zoster (shingles) among older adults in Ireland	Suggested speaker: [TBD]
	Recent Trends in Pertussis	Kingston Mills Trinity College Dublin
	Pneumococcal surveillance and the impact of vaccination in Ireland <i>Based on:</i> - <i>Invasive pneumococcal surveillance to assess the potential benefits of extended spectrum conjugate vaccines (PCV15/PCV20) in older adults</i> - <i>Is It Time To Review The Vaccination Strategy To Protect Adults Against Invasive Pneumococcal Disease?</i>	Suggested speaker: Suzanne Cotter or Mary Corcoran Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Dublin, Ireland Ireland University of Medicine and Health Sciences [TBC]
	The socioeconomic and societal value of adult immunisation programmes in Ireland <i>Basis: OHE benefit–cost analysis of influenza, RSV, pneumococcal disease (PD) and herpes zoster (HZ) programmes in Ireland, showing returns of 9–23x investment (up to €7,031 per fully vaccinated individual); reports "The Value of Adult Vaccination in Ireland" (2024) and "The Socioeconomic Value of Adult Immunisation Programmes" (2024).</i>	Suggested speaker: Simon Brasse Senior Principal Economist, Office of Health Economics (OHE)
	Discussion	
	Lunch	
Session 4: Implementation and delivery of adult vaccination services		
Chairs:		
Objective:		
	From the National Immunisation Office / HSE perspective	Speaker: [TBD]
	From the GP / healthcare provider/ nurse perspective	Speaker: Kay Varden [TBC] <i>Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing</i>
nag	From the community pharmacist perspective — <i>Basis: IPU reporting that community pharmacists delivered over 30% of all vaccines administered, and over 56% of the Children's LAIV schools programme, during the Autumn–Winter Vaccination</i>	Kathy Maher Chair, Pharmacy Contractors Committee, IPU (TBC)

	Programme 2025/2026; National COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Programme Operational Guidance for Community Pharmacy (v3, April 2026).	
Session 5: Recording and reporting of vaccination data		
Chairs:		
Objective:		
	Vaccination coverage monitoring and uptake statistics in Ireland <i>Basis: HPSC Immunisation Uptake Statistics programme; Seasonal Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Ireland, 2025/2026 Season report.</i>	Speaker: [TBD]
	Vaccine safety surveillance and pharmacovigilance in Ireland	Finnuala Lonsdale — Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA)] (TBC)
	NIIS implementation: current scope, remaining gaps and next steps <i>Basis: National Immunisation Office Strategic Plan 2024–2027 identifies implementation of a National Immunisation Information System as a strategic priority.</i>	Suggested speaker: Ronan Glyn [TBC] EY Ireland Or Anne Moore , [TBC] University College Cork,
	Discussion	
17.00	Closure of Day 1	

DAY 2 – November 19th, 2026

Session 6: Vaccine demand and acceptance		
Chairs:		
Objective:		
09.00	Vaccine hesitancy in Ireland: the "4Cs" model and disadvantaged urban communities <i>Basis: Ingram C, Roe M, Downey V, et al. "Exploring key informants' perceptions of Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy in a disadvantaged urban community in Ireland: Emergence of a '4Cs' model." Vaccine. 2023.</i>	Carla Perrotta University of Dublin [TBC]
	Psychological and behavioural correlates of vaccine hesitancy in Ireland	Susanna Kola-Palmer University of Huddersfield

	<i>Basis: Walsh JC, Comar M, Folan J, Williams S, Kola-Palmer S. The psychological and behavioural correlates of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and resistance in Ireland and the UK. Acta Psychol (Amst). 2022 May;225:103550. doi: 10.1016/j.actpsy.2022.103550</i>	
	Equity of access: ability to pay as a barrier to adult vaccination <i>Basis: ARI evidence that access to the shingles vaccine depends on ability to pay (listed two-dose course pricing of approx. €450–€487, typically around €480), raising equity concerns; NIAC recommends the vaccine for all adults 65+ and certain immunocompromised groups.</i>	<i>Suggested speaker: Alison Bough Head of Policy and Advocacy, Active Retirement Ireland (ARI)</i>
	Discussion	
Session 7: Adult vaccination in specific situations and population groups; the way forward		
Chairs:		
Objective:		
	Vaccination of healthcare workers <i>Basis: Townsend L, Kelly G, Kenny C, et al. "Healthcare worker characteristics associated with SARS-CoV-2 vaccine uptake in Ireland." Vaccines (Basel). 2023.</i>	<i>Speaker: Liam Townsend St James's Hospital, Dublin [TBC]</i>
	Vaccination of older adults	<i>Speaker: Aoife Fallon Trinity College Dublin [TBC]</i>
	Vaccination of other specific groups*: - immunocompromised adults - Pregnant women - Underserved groups (*) what is the most valuable for the Irish adult vaccination program (do discuss current situation, gaps and way forward)	<i>Speaker: [TBD]</i>
	Travel vaccines in Ireland – policy and implementation	<i>Speaker: Prof. Gerard Flaherty, President of the International Society of Travel Medicine 2023-2025. [TBC]</i>
	Discussion	
	Coffee break	
Session 8: Breakout Groups and meeting closing		
Chairs:		
	Breakout Groups – discuss lessons learnt and the way forward (potential topics are decided during the course of the meeting)	
	Plenary feedback	
	Lunch	
Chairs:		
	Meeting summary by AIB rapporteur - Katherine Newell (P95)	

15h	Closing remarks and Closing of the Meeting
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