

**Question for written answer E-002489/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Maria Spyraiki (PPE)**

Subject: Impact of COVID-19 on HPV vaccination programmes

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed health systems in Europe under unprecedented strain and caused widespread disruption to routine vaccination programmes, which has underscored the importance of resilient and sustainable immunisation.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programmes have been severely impacted by the pandemic. With 872 million students worldwide still unable to attend school, COVID-19 and subsequent school closures have led to the delayed delivery and administration of certain school-based vaccinations. In Greece, the Hellenic Paediatric Society reported a 45 % fall in the number of those who received the HPV vaccination from the ages of 11-16 in 2020.

It is therefore critical that routine immunisation is maintained and that coverage rates recover. In the light of the ambitious targets of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan to vaccinate at least 90 % of girls and significantly more boys by 2030:

What is the Commission doing to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on routine immunisation and on HPV in particular?

Has the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control or other EU agencies provided guidance or recommendations to the Member States, as well as a monitoring mechanism, to assess the effectiveness of the measures taken at national level?

How does the Commission plan to ensure that there will not be outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in Europe due to disrupted immunisation programmes?