

The PHA, in conjunction with CEC, is hosting a webinar to promote awareness amongst healthcare professionals of the pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination programme for pregnant women. Uptake of pertussis vaccination has fallen over recent years.

# PERTUSSIS WEBINAR

**Webinar:**

**Wednesday, 9th October 2024**

**6.30pm**

## SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Deirdre Ward – Nurse Consultant for Immunisations, Public Health Agency

Deirdre is a registered nurse and health visitor with over 35 years' experience. She is currently the Interim Assistant Director for Children and Young People's Services in the Public Health Agency and oversees a variety of workstreams including Maternity Services, the Continuity of Midwifery Care, early years, school years, paediatrics, neonatal care and the Family Nurse Partnership. She also oversees the Sessional Vaccinator workforce within the PHA and is responsible for service delivery within immunisation programmes.

- Rachel Spiers – Senior Immunisation Programme Manager, Public Health Agency

Rachel has worked for 12 years within the Health Protection team at the Public Health Agency. In her former role as an epidemiologist, she specialised in the epidemiology of healthcare associated infections and more recently contributed to a variety of reports and publications during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is currently the operational lead for immunisation programmes including the children's, adult and seasonal vaccination programmes, and oversees the implementation of new programmes and changes to existing programmes.

- Caroline Keown - Chief Midwifery Officer, Department of Health for Northern Ireland (NI)

Caroline is a registered midwife with thirty years' experience working in a variety of roles within the HSC Trusts across hospital and community settings in NI. She has gained operational and managerial experience over that period, with her focus being on improving the safety and quality of maternity services along with championing woman's health issues. As the Chief Midwifery Officer, Caroline works alongside departmental policy colleagues, to provide professional advice and guidance on matters relating to midwifery, women's health, neonatal and children's nursing across all sectors.

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