Pigeon Paramyxovirus 1 (PPMV1) is a very contagious disease which can cause severe illness and death in pigeons. PPMV1 rarely causes conjunctivitis or flu-like symptoms in humans.

### Clinical Signs
The disease can cause either death or a wide range of clinical signs in pigeons including:
- dullness, lack of appetite, drop in egg production and pale and misshapen eggs
- respiratory signs such as gasping
- bright green watery diarrhoea
- nervous signs such as tremors, drooping wing, twisted necks, paralysis

### Actions
Pigeon Paramyxovirus is a **notifiable** disease (S.I. No. 57 of 2012). If your pigeons show any of the above signs you must report it to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) either through your local vet or contact your local Regional Veterinary Office directly. A Veterinary Inspector will visit the loft to take samples and advise you on actions to take. The movement of pigeons or anything which is likely to be contaminated with the virus such as droppings, eggs, or equipment from the premises will be prohibited until sample results have ruled out the disease. If PPMV1 has been confirmed a restriction notice lasting 60 days (or 21 days if all birds are destroyed) will be served which will ban the movement of all birds from the loft. The loft must be cleaned and disinfected and waste material must be carefully disposed of so that it does not infect other birds.

### Controls
Compliance with the legislation concerning the vaccination of racing pigeons for PPMV1 is of paramount importance to protecting the health and welfare of Irish pigeons. Furthermore, if the PPMV1 virus were to spread from infected pigeons to poultry in Ireland it could lead to restrictions for both the Irish poultry industry and pigeon racing. Owners who intend to import pigeons into Ireland from other EU countries should ensure that they are vaccinated for PPMV1 prior to departure and are accompanied by a valid Intra EU Trade Health Certificate.

### VACCINATION – KEY POINTS
- **Colombovac PMV** which is manufactured by Zoetis is currently the only authorised PPMV1 vaccine which can be used in pigeons in Ireland (see picture)
- **Always read the instructions** in the pack on how to administer the vaccine
- Vaccines must be kept refrigerated (2°C - 8°C) during transport and storage
- Do not freeze the vaccine and protect the vaccine from light
- After the vaccine vial is first opened the vaccine should be used immediately
- Ensure that the vaccine is administered according to the manufacturer’s instructions to the birds at the right time e.g. Colombovac PMV is not to be used in birds in lay
- Do not vaccinate sick birds

### Vaccination Records
Pigeon owners must maintain the following records and keep them at their premises or have ready access to them for one year following vaccination. They must produce these records to a Veterinary Inspector from DAFM upon request:
- Name and address of pigeon owner
- Name, batch number and expiry date of vaccine used
- Name of person who administered the vaccine
- Date of vaccine administration and number of pigeons vaccinated
- Identities (ring numbers) of the pigeons vaccinated

Pigeon owners are encouraged to register their premises with the Department in order that DAFM can contact you in the event of a disease outbreak. Registration can be done online at [DAFM - Applications, Licenses and Forms](#) or forms are available to print on the [DAFM - How to Register your Poultry Premises with the Department](#) section of the website.