

HSE NATIONAL IMMUNISATION OFFICE

IMMUNISATION BULLETIN 61

THIS EDITION COVERS

- Notice regarding Infanrix Hexa – UK packs to be supplied for a limited period
- Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5 vaccines and primary vaccination – operationalised for those aged 5-11 only
- Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) Safety Update on COVID-19 Vaccines, Overview of National Reporting Experience, 17 February 2023 (Safety Update #19)
- Reminder for parents and guardians to make sure their children are protected against measles
- World Health Day 2023

Infanrix Hexa

Infanrix Hexa (Batch A21CE261A, Expiry 11/2024)



The shipment of Irish packs of Infanrix Hexa by GSK has been delayed therefore UK packs of Infanrix Hexa will be supplied for a limited period. These UK packs of batch **A21CE261A** are authorised by HPRa for use in Ireland and the components are identical requiring reconstitution in the same manner.

The differences between the Irish and UK products are as below:

	Irish pack	UK pack
Pack size	10	1
Needles	20 x 25G1 (Orange)	One 23G1 (Blue) for administration and one 21G1½ (Green) for reconstitution
Peel-off label	4 (2 on syringe & 2 on vial)	2 (only on vial)
Expiry date	March 2025	November 2024
Minimum order	10 doses	1 dose

Shipments of Irish packs will resume, therefore please:

- Order the exact number of doses of Infanrix Hexa (single box) required for administration during the interval between your monthly deliveries.
- If you require 7 doses then only order 7 doses as these are single dose packs.
- Administer this batch before your current stock if your current stock has a longer expiry. This batch will expire in November 2024.

Please ensure that all vaccinators at your site are aware that when using batch **A21CE261A**:

21G1½ needle (Green) should be used for **reconstitution** only.
23G1 needle (Blue) MUST be used for **administration**.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused and thank you for your cooperation in managing this supply issue.

If you have queries about the above please email the NIO Pharmacy Team at pharmacynio@hse.ie

COVID-19 Vaccination

Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5 vaccines and primary vaccination (operationalised for those aged 5-11 only)

In December 2022, the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Emergency Task Force concluded that Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5 vaccines may be used in primary vaccination of previously unvaccinated children and adults.

The Department of Health recently endorsed this EMA recommendation and the HSE is in the process of operationalising this EMA recommendation to provide Comirnaty bivalent Original/Omicron BA.4-5 mRNA vaccines for primary vaccination.

At this time, **only Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5 10 micrograms (0.2ml) for those aged 5-11 may be used for primary course vaccination if necessary.**

For those aged 12 years and older, original COVID-19 vaccine formulations should still be used for primary course vaccination. The use of Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5 30 micrograms (0.3mls) for primary course vaccination of those aged 12 years and older **has not yet been operationalised.**

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) Safety Update on COVID-19 Vaccines, Overview of National Reporting Experience, 17 February 2023 (Safety Update #19)

On 17 February 2023, the HPRA published their safety update (#19) on COVID-19 Vaccines, Overview of the National Reporting Experience

Read the HPRA safety update on COVID-19 Vaccines [here](#).

MMR vaccine

Reminder for parents and guardians to make sure their children are protected against measles

We would like to ask you to remind parents and guardians to make sure their children are up to date with their MMR vaccines before travelling outside of Ireland during the Easter break. Children need two doses of the MMR vaccine to be fully protected.

Measles is highly infectious and can be an acute and serious infection. It causes a rash illness, with cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis and high fever. Complications of measles include ear infections, pneumonia, febrile seizures and less commonly encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and even death.

Already in 2023, measles outbreaks have been reported in a number of countries like United States, South Africa, Nepal and Austria and the World Health Organization (WHO) recently warned about the risk of measles in children as a result of low MMR vaccine following the pandemic.

The MMR vaccine is the most effective protection we have against measles outbreaks which are being reported around the world.

Read the recent HSE Press Release [here](#).

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Health Day 2023

This Friday, April 7th we congratulate the World Health Organization (WHO) on their **75th anniversary** as we mark World Health Day with colleagues in Ireland and all over the world.

The WHO have set an ambitious Triple Billion target with vaccination being a key component under the target “1 billion more people better protected from health emergencies”.

Will you join us in celebrating World Health Day this Friday on our channels?



Did you know?

Our [website](#) was one of the first to join the [WHO Vaccine Safety Network](#). There are now **104** members in **44** countries with information in **36** languages.

Website



Visit website [here](#).

Visit our website www.immunisation.ie regularly for information to support vaccinators and health professionals responding to queries.

HSeLand Vaccination Training Programme



Visit HSeLand [here](#).

You will find programmes developed by our office by logging into your account on www.hseland.ie selecting **courses** then selecting **clinical skills** and finally selecting **National Immunisation Office**.



Contact HSeLand [here](#).

If you have any issues with the platform please contact HSeLand directly.

Do you have queries?



Send your query [here](#).

Clinical queries from healthcare professionals can be directed to our dedicated email address

Should vaccines be exposed to temperatures outside of parameters please contact a National Immunisation Office pharmacist immediately. Contacts include:

- email pharmacynio@hse.ie
- Leah Gaughan: mobile 087 1881667
- Achal Gupta: mobile 087 4064810
- Cliona Kiersey: mobile 087 9915452

If you have a query about errors or changes to records on COVAX, please contact the Contact Management Programme on 01 240 8786.

Queries that are not clinical or technical cannot be answered by the National Immunisation Office



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