

# National Immunisation News

The newsletter of the HSE National Immunisation Office

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## INCREASE IN NUMBER OF PERTUSSIS CASES



There has been a large increase in the number of pertussis (whooping cough) cases. 368 cases have been reported to the HPSC this year - more than double the number for the same time last year and there have been two deaths in infants too young to be vaccinated. Most cases are less than 5 years of age but many cases have been reported in adolescents and adults.

**All children should get their pertussis containing vaccines on time to protect themselves and their younger siblings.**

New groups for adult pertussis vaccination include

- all health care workers in contact with infants, pregnant women and the immunocompromised
- pregnant women over 20 weeks gestation and other adults who wish to reduce the risk of infection to themselves and infants may source Tdap vaccine privately.

| Pertussis containing vaccines and indications   |             |         |               |                                      |
|---|-------------|---------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
|   | Provided by | Vaccine | Product name  | Availability                         |
| 2, 4, 6 months  | GP          | 6 in 1  | Infanrix Hexa | From HSE National Cold Chain Service |
| 4-5 years   | HSE/GP      | 4 in 1  | Infanrix IPV  |                                      |
| 11-14 years   | HSE         | Tdap    | Boostrix      |                                      |
| Health care workers (in contact with infants, pregnant women and the immunocompromised) | HSE/GP      | Tdap    | Boostrix      | Must be sourced privately            |
| Pregnant women (over 20 weeks gestation)  | GP          | Tdap    | Boostrix      |                                      |
| Adults  | GP          | Tdap    | Boostrix      |                                      |

### Have you ordered Tdap vaccine from the HSE National Cold Chain Service for your staff?

More information about pertussis and vaccination is available at

- [http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Downloads/NIACGuidelines/PDFFile\\_15485\\_en.pdf](http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Downloads/NIACGuidelines/PDFFile_15485_en.pdf)
- [http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/PertussisWhoopingCough/Guidance/File\\_13577\\_en.pdf](http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/PertussisWhoopingCough/Guidance/File_13577_en.pdf)
- <http://www.immunisation.ie/en/HealthcareProfessionals/Pertussis/>

## CHANGES TO IMMUNISATION GUIDELINES

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) has revised the Diphtheria, Influenza, Pertussis and Tetanus chapters in the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland. These can be found at <http://www.immunisation.ie/en/HealthcareProfessionals/ImmunisationGuidelines2008/>

The main changes in the Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus chapters are:

- updated epidemiology
- new sections on treatment and prophylaxis
- no interval required between previous any diphtheria, tetanus or pertussis containing vaccine for those 10 years and older
- Arthus-type reaction to a previous dose added to Precautions for vaccination.

An Arthus reaction is a major local reaction after DTP vaccination which involves swelling and erythema of most of the diameter of the upper arm from shoulder to elbow. This usually begins 2-8 hours after vaccination, is more common in adults and resolves without sequelae. Further routine or emergency booster doses of tetanus or diphtheria containing vaccines should NOT be given more frequently than every 10 years.

- active or progressive neurological disease NOT a contraindication or precaution to vaccination (pertussis chapter)
- new guidance on tetanus vaccination following a wound (see table below)
- new indications for pertussis vaccination (see page 1)

## TETANUS VACCINATION FOLLOWING A WOUND

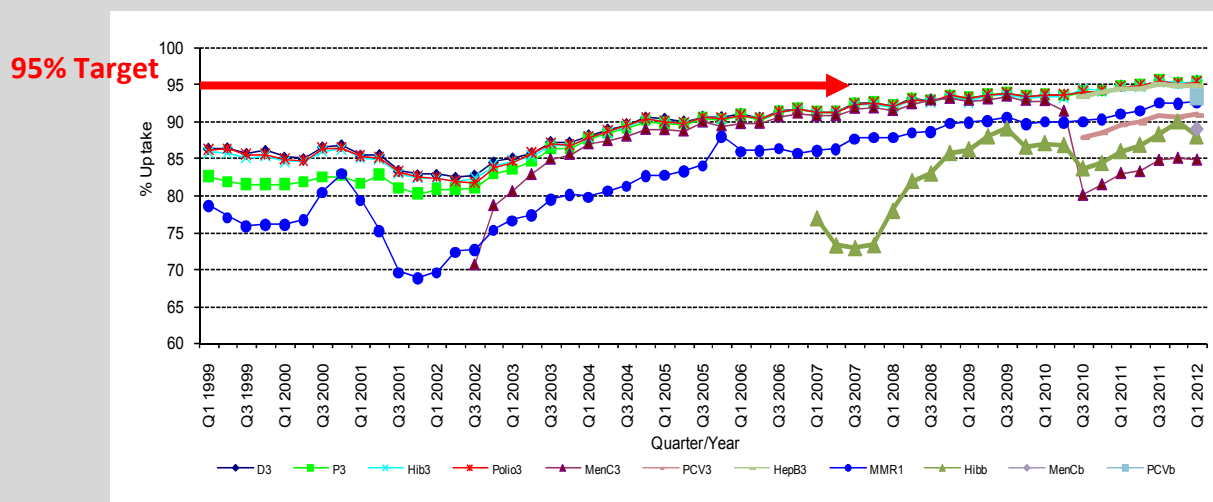
**This guidance replaces the previous table issued in the last newsletter**

| Age (years) | Vaccination status  | Interval since last dose of tetanus vaccine | Vaccine required         |
|-------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <4          | <3 doses or unknown |   | 6 in 1 vaccine           |
|             | 3 or more doses     |   | Nil                      |
| 4+ to 10    | <3 doses or unknown |   | 6 in 1 or 4 in 1 vaccine |
|             | 3 doses only        | ≥5 years                                    | 4 in 1 vaccine           |
|             | 3 or more doses     | <5 years                                    | Nil                      |
|             | 4 or more doses     | ≥5 years                                    | Nil                      |
| 10 +        | <3 doses or unknown |   | Td/Tdap or Tdap/IPV      |
|             | 3 doses only        | <10 years                                   | Nil                      |
|             | 3 or more doses     | ≥10 years                                   | Td or Tdap               |

## INCREASE IN UPTAKE RATES

Immunisation uptake rates for Quarter 1 2012 show rates for DPT at 24 months reached the World Health Organization target of 95%.

But rates of MMR 93%, PCV<sup>3</sup> 91%, Hib booster 88% and MenC<sup>3</sup> 85% are still below the WHO target.



**Please encourage parents to get all their five visits on time and don't delay sending the returns to your local immunisation office.**

## COMMON QUERIES

**Q. If a child has a dose of 6 in 1 vaccine over 12 months of age do they still need to get a Hib booster?**

**A.** No, as the 6in 1 contains Hib vaccine the child doesn't need a Hib Booster.

**Q. Can varicella vaccine be given at the 12 month visit?**

**A.** Varicella vaccine is a live vaccine so it can be given at the same time as another live vaccine (i.e. MMR) or else there must be an interval of four weeks between these two vaccines. Varicella can be given at the same time or at any interval before or after inactivated vaccines (i.e. Hib, Men C or PCV) Varicella vaccine is not part of the primary childhood immunisation schedule and so it needs to be sourced privately.



## SCHOOLS IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

The 2012/2013 school immunisation programme began in September 2012 and the school vaccination teams will provide the following vaccines during the academic year.

| Vaccine                 | Cohort   |
|-------------------------|--|
| 4 in1 + MMR2            | Junior Infants (given by GPs in 8 LHOs)  |
| HPV* routine + catch up | All girls in 1 <sup>st</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> year of second level school as well as age appropriate girls in special schools, educated at home or attending Youthreach or community training centres |
| Tdap*                   | All students in 1 <sup>st</sup> year second level school   |
| MMR* catch up           | All second level students  |

\* Two of these vaccines can be given at the same time

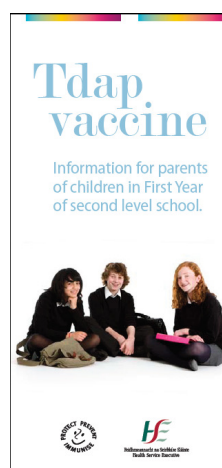
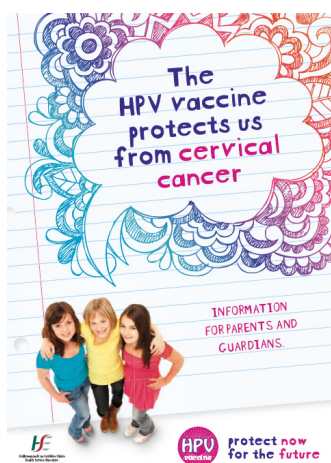
The MMR catch up programme is offering a dose of MMR vaccine to second level students **who have not completed (or are not sure they have completed) their two dose MMR vaccination schedule** to protect them from measles mumps and rubella.

This is a one off campaign and is part of Ireland's commitment to the World Health Organization's European measles elimination strategy. It is also in response to large outbreaks of measles in Ireland and Europe in the past year. These outbreaks have occurred because many young people have not received the recommended two doses of MMR vaccine.

This catch up campaign is being delivered from October 2012 in second level schools or in some cases at HSE clinics.

For more information about the schools programme please see

<http://www.immunisation.ie/en/SchoolProgramme/>



**Current Vaccines List Updated November 2012****Primary Childhood Vaccines**

| Vaccine | Product Name  | Manufacturer       | Pack Size |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 6 in 1  | INFANRIX HEXA | GSK                | 10        |
| Men C   | MENJUGATE     | Novartis           | 1         |
| PCV     | PREVENAR 13   | Pfizer             | 10        |
| MMR     | PRIORIX       | GSK                | 10        |
| MMR     | MMR Vax Pro   | Sanofi Pasteur MSD | 1         |
| Hib     | HIBERIX       | GSK                | 1         |
| 4 in 1  | INFANRIX-IPV  | GSK                | 1         |

**Adult Vaccines**

| Vaccine      | Product Name                               | Manufacturer       | Pack Size |
|--------------|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Td           | DITE BOOSTER                               | SSI                | 5         |
| Influenza    | INACTIVATED INFLUENZA (SPLIT VIRION)<br>BP | Sanofi Pasteur MSD | 10        |
| Pneumococcal | PNEUMOVAX 11                               | Sanofi Pasteur MSD | 1         |

**Vaccines Used By HSE**

| Vaccine    | Product Name    | Manufacturer       | Pack Size |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| BCG        | BCG             | SSI                | 5         |
| Tdap       | BOOSTRIX        | GSK                | 1         |
| Tuberculin | TUBERCULIN 2 TU | SSI                | 10        |
| 4 in 1     | INFANRIX-IPV    | GSK                | 1         |
| MMR        | PRIORIX         | GSK                | 10        |
| MMR        | MMR Vax Pro     | Sanofi Pasteur MSD | 1         |
| HPV        | GARDASIL        | Sanofi Pasteur MSD | 1         |

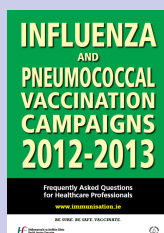
**Restricted Vaccines Requiring Authorisation**

| Vaccine                 | Product Name                  | Manufacturer       | Pack Size |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Hepatitis A             | HAVRIX Monodose               | GSK                | 1         |
|                         | AVAXIM                        | Sanofi Pasteur MSD | 1         |
|                         | HAVRIX Junior Monodose        | GSK                | 1         |
| Hepatitis B             | ENGERIX (adult)               | GSK                | 1         |
|                         | ENGERIX (paediatric)          | GSK                | 1         |
|                         | FENDRIX (renal insufficiency) | GSK                | 1         |
|                         | HBVAXPRO 5mcg                 | Sanofi Pasteur MSD | 1         |
|                         | HBVAXPRO 10mcg                | Sanofi Pasteur MSD | 1         |
| Hepatitis A+B           | HBVAXPRO 40mcg                | Sanofi Pasteur MSD | 1         |
|                         | TWINRIX (adult)               | GSK                | 1         |
|                         | TWINRIX (paediatric)          | GSK                | 1         |
| MenACW <sub>135</sub> Y | MENVEO                        | Novartis           | 1         |
| Tdap                    | BOOSTRIX                      | GSK                | 1         |
| Td/IPV                  | Revaxis                       | Sanofi Pasteur MSD | 1         |
| Tdap/IPV                | IPV-Boostrix                  | GSK                | 1         |

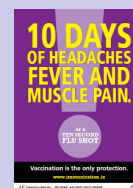
## KEEP VACCINATING - SEASONAL FLU 2012-2013

Flu vaccine uptake in those aged 65 and older with a GMS or doctor only card was 56.5% for 2011/2012. This is less than for 2010/2011 and well below the World Health Organization target uptake of 75%.

The 2012/2013 seasonal flu campaign is well underway and so far over 700,000 doses of vaccine have been distributed to GPs, pharmacies, hospitals and other sites.



Please continue to vaccinate any of those in the at risk groups especially pregnant women who have not yet had the vaccine and send your returns to PCRS.



## DRIVING CHANGE IN IMMUNISATION

Have a look at this report which contains lots of detail about the work of the National Immunisation Office at

[http://www.immunisation.ie/en/EXTRADOWNLOADS/Text\\_16998\\_en.html](http://www.immunisation.ie/en/EXTRADOWNLOADS/Text_16998_en.html)



## HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2013

Thank you for all your hard work in promoting and providing immunisation and for all your comments, queries and feedback throughout the year. We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to working with you all in 2013.

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