

# National Immunisation News

The newsletter of the National Immunisation Office Directorate of Population Health

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

## Thank You

The National Immunisation Office would like to thank everyone involved in the successful role out of the new immunisation schedule and the pneumococcal catch-up programme and greatly appreciates all your hard work.



## Pneumococcal Vaccine Catch-up Campaign

The pneumococcal vaccine Catch-up campaign for all children born between 2nd September 2006 and 30th June 2008 commenced in September 2008. A media campaign calling parents to bring their children for vaccination is currently on the radio and in national and local press.

The Catch-up campaign will continue in 2009. We would encourage all children under 2 on the 30th June 2008 to get vaccinated. If a child in this cohort has not been vaccinated remember its not too late to vaccinate.

## Pneumococcal Vaccine Catch-up Return Forms

Please remember **ONLY** returns for the pneumococcal vaccine catch-up campaign should be posted to the National Immunisation Office and not to your local health office. A book of return forms was sent to each general practice. If you require more forms please contact the National Immunisation Office.

Electronic forms will be accepted by the office provided they contain the equivalent information.

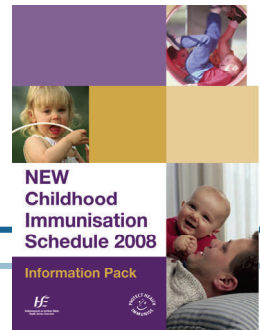
Returns should be posted to

National Immunisation Office  
**FREEPOST 4584**  
Unit 8/9 Manor St Business Park  
Manor St. Dublin 7

**A POSTAGE STAMP IS NOT REQUIRED FOR RETURNS.  
USE THE FREEPOST CODE AS ILLUSTRATED**

## Training Sessions

A number of training sessions were held in 2008 providing GPs and Practice nurses with information regarding immunisation.



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **What should happen when a child due the old schedule is given the new schedule at 2 months?**

Any child born before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 should receive the old schedule. If they are inadvertently given the new schedule at 2 months they should revert to old schedule at 4 and 6 months (5 in 1 and Men C). In addition they will need a single dose of Men C.

### **A child has had the 6 in 1 but missed the BCG. Can they still have the BCG?**

Yes. BCG can be given at the same time as any killed vaccine therefore it can be administered simultaneously with the 5 in 1 or 6 in 1 or can be given at any time interval between 2 doses of 5 in 1 or 6 in 1.

### **Can the Pneumovax 11 be given instead of Prevenar as part of primary schedule or pneumococcal vaccine catch up campaign?**

No. Pneumovax 11 does not produce a good immune response in children aged 2 and under and is not licenced for use in this age group. However, the vaccine is recommended for those aged over 2 who are at a higher risk of infection as identified in the National Immunisation Guidelines.

These Frequently asked questions and others arising from the training sessions are available for download from [www.immunisation.ie/en/downloads/PDFfile\\_15667\\_en.pdf](http://www.immunisation.ie/en/downloads/PDFfile_15667_en.pdf)

## Mumps

In 2008 there have been a number of mumps outbreaks in teenagers and young adults.

Two doses of MMR vaccine will protect approximately 98% of individuals against mumps. (Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland, 2008)

Students who have not had 2 doses of MMR vaccine should be vaccinated with MMR.



## Flu Campaign

The flu campaign for 2008 commenced in October. To date 600,000 vaccines have been distributed to GP practices and HSE sites.

Annual flu vaccine is recommended for those aged over 65 and those in at risk groups. **Unused flu vaccine will be collected before the next flu season begins.**



**REMEMBER  
ITS NOT TOO  
LATE TO  
VACCINATE**

The pneumococcal vaccine can be given at the same time as flu vaccine however this vaccine is NOT required every year.

**Please note that pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax11) does not expire until 28th February 2010 and should NOT be returned.**



## Ordering Information Materials

The National Immunisation Office has produced extensive information materials for health professionals and for members of the public.

These can be ordered from <http://www.healthpromotion.ie/healthinfo/> Simply click on Immunisation or Immunisation Professionals from the dropdown menu to order materials.

All immunisation materials are also available for download from [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

Translations of the childhood leaflets are available for download in 11 languages from [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie) under the Leaflet Translations section.

## Neonatal BCG Programme commences in Cork



In October, 2008 the HSE commenced the Neonatal BCG Vaccination Programme in Cork. Vaccination is carried out in Maternity hospitals and at local health office clinics.

## Vaccine News

The **NEW Immunisation Schedule** has been in place since July 2008. Most children coming for immunisation will be on the new schedule and therefore demand for the 5 in 1 vaccine should fall dramatically over the coming months.

Please make sure you use your existing 5 in 1 stock for children born before 1st July 2008 and only order the amount you required as supplies are limited.



**Mantoux 10TU** is no longer recommended in the National Immunisation Guidelines 2008 and will not be supplied from the Cold Chain.

A new **MMR vaccine** MMRVaxPro will be available in January 2009.

This vaccine will be distributed to HSE sites only, for logistical reasons.



### Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) - (Prevenar)

is recommended for all children under 2 years of age as part of the Pneumococcal Catch - up Programme.

The Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland (2008) recommends that at risk children aged 2—5 years of age, should be given PCV followed 2 months later by Polysaccharide Pneumococcal Vaccine (PPV).



For further details consult your copy of the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland 2008—pages 126 –129



**Fendrix—Hepatitis B Vaccine** is a new Hepatitis B vaccine which will be available from the National Cold Chain Service in 2009.

It is indicated for active immunisation against hepatitis B infection for **patients with renal insufficiency** from age 15 upwards.

There is a 4 dose schedule for this vaccine is **0, 1, 2 and 6 months**

**For further information contact the Chief Pharmacist**

## VACCINES AVAILABLE FROM HSE NATIONAL COLD CHAIN DELIVERY SERVICE January 2009

### PRIMARY CHILDHOOD VACCINES

VACCINE	PRODUCT NAME	MANUFACTURER	PACK SIZE
6 in 1	INFANRIX HEXA	GSK	10
Men C	MENINGITEC	Wyeth	10
	MENJUGATE	Novartis	1
PCV	PREVENAR	WYETH	10 & 1
MMR	PRIORIX	GSK	10
Hib	HIBERIX	GSK	1
4 in 1	TETRAVAC	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	1

### ADULT VACCINES

VACCINE	PRODUCT NAME	MANUFACTURER	PACK SIZE
Td	DITE BOOSTER	SSI	5
Influenza	AGGRIPAL	Novartis	10
	BEGRIVAC	Novartis	10
	ENZIRA	Wyeth	10
	INACTIVATED INFLUENZA VACCINE (Split Virion) BP	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	10
Pneumococcal	INFLUVAC	Solvay	10
	PNEUMOVAX 11	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	1

### VACCINES USED BY HSE

VACCINE	PRODUCT NAME	MANUFACTURER	PACK SIZE
BCG	BCG	SSI	5
Tuberculin	TUBERCULIN 2 TU	SSI	10
4 in 1	INFANRIX-IPV	GSK	1
MMR	MMR Vax Pro	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	10

### RESTRICTED VACCINES REQUIRING AUTHORISATION

VACCINE	PRODUCT NAME	MANUFACTURER	PACK SIZE
5 in 1	PENTAVAC	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	1
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
Hepatitis A+B	HBVAXPRO 5mcg	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	1
	HBVAXPRO 10mcg	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	1
	HBVAXPRO 40mcg	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	1
Hepatitis A+B	TWINRIX (adult)	GSK	1
	TWINRIX (paediatric)	GSK	1
Td/IPV	Revaxis	Sanofi Pasteur	1

## Cold Chain News

### Returns Service

We would encourage all sites to use the vaccine return service provided free of charge by the HSE.

The returns service is used for

- **unused expired vaccines** in their **original packaging**
- vaccines that have had a **break in cold chain storage**
- vaccines with a **product defect**

Please complete the Vaccine Return Form. Place vaccines in a box with the returns form, seal the box and give to the United Drug driver.

**DON'T INCLUDE SHARPS,  
OTHER DRUGS OR CLINICAL  
WASTE**

### Cost of Vaccine Schedules

The cost of vaccines for the old schedule i.e. any child born on or before the 30th June 2008 is €125 per child

The cost of vaccines for the new schedule i.e. all children born on or after 1st July 2008 is €410 per child

Vaccine expenditure in 2008 was €31.5m

Please help us to use these expensive vaccines efficiently.

Remember

- Do not order quantities of vaccines that will not be used.
- Rotate vaccine stock
- Use a switchless socket and highlight the fridge must not be unplugged.



### Vaccine Ordering

All **sites should fax or email** their vaccine orders to United Drug customer services. United Drug will no longer be in telephone contact with HSE sites for vaccine orders.

### National Immunisation Office Staff

#### Contact Details:

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