

August 2013

# National Immunisation News

The newsletter of the HSE National Immunisation Office

## CONTENTS

- Flu Season is coming
- Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland
- Immunisation Website
- GP Guidelines
- Uptake rates are still low
- Schools Immunisation Programme
- Monitoring Fridge Temperatures
- Vaccine Deliveries
- Supplies of Hepatitis vaccine
- Vaccine Listing
- Common Queries

## Contact Details



[www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

## FLU SEASON IS COMING

In preparation for the 2013/2014 flu season please:

- Return all flu vaccines.
- Return all expired vaccines.
- Complete a returns form - available from United Drug or at [http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Downloads/PDFFile\\_12455\\_en.pdf](http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Downloads/PDFFile_12455_en.pdf).
- Place these vaccines in a box  
NO sharps should be included with returns.

Give your returns to the HSE national cold chain driver at your next delivery or contact the National Cold Chain Service to arrange collection if you have no delivery planned.

*Expired vaccines do not require refrigeration*

**Further details about the 2013/2014 flu season will be sent in the coming weeks.**



## IMMUNISATION GUIDELINES FOR IRELAND

New 2013 Immunisation Guidelines are being drafted and will be available online later this year.

Check our website for the latest update.

[www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)



## WWW.IMMUNISATION.IE

Check out our website for  
The What's New section <http://www.immunisation.ie/en/WhatsNew/>

Translations of all our information materials  
<http://www.immunisation.ie/en/LeafletTranslations/>

Presentations at the 2013 Vaccine Preventable Diseases Conference  
<http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Conferences/2013VPDConference/>



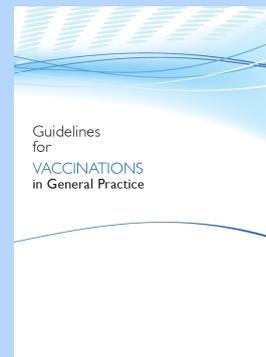
## GP GUIDELINES

New Guidelines for Vaccinations in General Practice developed with representatives from the ICGP and the IPNA were published and distributed in June 2013.

These Guidelines contain standard procedures before during and after vaccine administration and also deal with common administration issues and the importance of maintaining the cold chain.

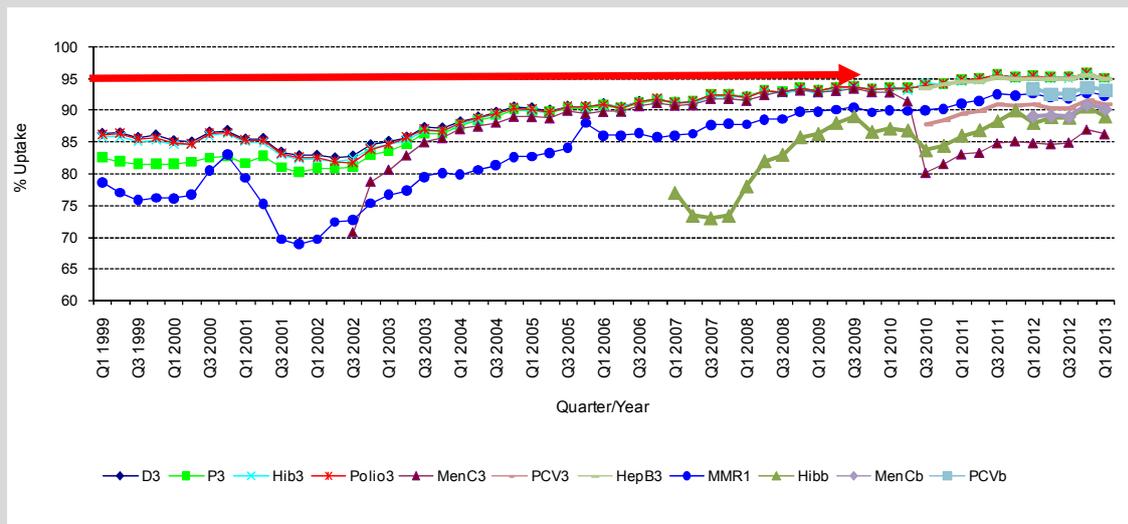
The Guidelines are available at [http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Downloads/PDFFile\\_17222\\_en.pdf](http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Downloads/PDFFile_17222_en.pdf)

Please contact the NIO if you would like further copies or order copies from [www.healthpromotion.ie](http://www.healthpromotion.ie) if you have registered and have a healthcare professional account.



## UPTAKE RATES ARE STILL LOW FOR 12 AND 13 MONTH VISITS

Immunisation uptake rates for Quarter 1 2013 show rates for DPT at 24 months reached the World Health Organization target of 95%.



Source: HPSC

But rates of vaccinations at 12 and 13 months MMR 92% and boosters of PCV 91%, Hib 89% and MenC 86% are still below the WHO target.

**No LHO reached the target of 95% for PCV or MenC boosters so many children are not fully vaccinated.**

**Please remind parents of the importance of completing all FIVE visits on time and send details of the vaccinations soon after to your local immunisation office.**

For more details see

<http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/Vaccination/ImmunisationUptakeStatistics/QuarterlyReports/>

and check out your local area uptake rates at

<http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/Vaccination/ImmunisationUptakeStatistics/ImmunisationUptakeStatisticsSummary/>

## SCHOOLS IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

### High HPV vaccine uptake

Uptake rates for 2011/2012 have just been published and show that 85% of girls in 1<sup>st</sup> year of second level schools completed the 3 dose course. This is higher than the target uptake of 80% and higher than the 82% uptake achieved in 2010/2011.



The uptake rate for the catch up programme for 6<sup>th</sup> year girls in 2011/2012 is 71% (well in excess of the target rate of 60%).

Over 95% of both 1<sup>st</sup> year and 6<sup>th</sup> year girls who started HPV vaccine completed the 3 dose course.

These uptake figures are excellent and are comparable to those achieved through school immunisation programmes in the UK, Europe and Australia. This achievement reflects the huge effort by all concerned. Well done to all involved!

### Schools immunisation programme for 2013/2014

The school vaccination teams will provide the following vaccines during the academic year.

Vaccine	Cohort
4 in1 + MMR2	4 -5 years - Junior Infants (given by GPs in 2 LHOs - Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim)
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 primary school +1 <sup>st</sup> year second level students

\* Two of these vaccines may be given at the same time to first year girls as HPV + MMR or HPV + Tdap; and to first year boys or girls as Tdap + MMR.

The MMR catch up programme is offering a dose of MMR vaccine to primary school and 1<sup>st</sup> year 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 continuation of the one off campaign that took place in second level schools in 2012/2013 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 two years. These outbreaks have occurred because many young people have not received the recommended two doses of MMR vaccine. This catch up campaign will be delivered from September 2013 in primary and 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/>

## MONITORING FRIDGE TEMPERATURES

During 2012 vaccines valued at over €300,000 were returned to the National Cold Chain Service (NCCS) due to a break in the cold chain. These vaccines cannot be used and were sent for destruction.

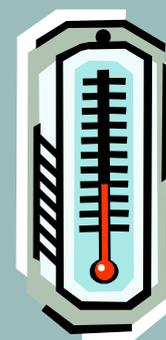
To minimise this please:

- Record the fridge temperature twice daily using the temperature indicator dial on the fridge.
  - Place a continuous battery powered monitoring device (data logger) in the fridge as a second monitor independent of the fridge power supply. This will provide an accurate reading of the fridge temperature at all times and give the precise duration of any temperature breach.
- Until such a device is in place keep a maximum/minimum thermometer in the fridge. Record the temperature of this device twice daily and remember to clear the memory after each reading.
- Use a switchless socket or clearly highlight the power supply should not be switched off.
  - Make sure your fridge is calibrated annually.

**Audit your vaccine storage procedures at least every year.**

If there is a power failure or break in the cold chain:

- Record the time and fridge temperature.
- Keep the fridge door closed.
- Contact the National Immunisation Office Phone: 01-8676108 or 087-9915452.



**Do not use or dispose of any vaccine and keep vaccines between +2°C to +8°C in quarantine until advised by the National Immunisation Office.**

## VACCINE DELIVERIES



All sites should have received their new calendar with details of the monthly delivery dates for the next 12 months.

Contact United Drug if you would like a copy of your calendar emailed to you.

Just order enough vaccines for a 6 week supply at a time.

Plan your orders and order regularly - don't order excess stocks.

**Did you notice that vaccine delivery dockets now contain details of indicative vaccine costs?**

These should help you work out the value of the vaccines in your fridge so that you have adequate insurance in place in case of a fridge breakdown.

## Supplies of Hepatitis Vaccine

Supplies of Hepatitis A and B vaccines can be ordered from the Cold Chain for those in the at risk groups.

Please note this does not include vaccines for travel or for those working in private facilities - vaccines in these cases must be sourced privately.



**Current Vaccines List Updated August 2013****Primary Childhood Vaccines**

<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Product Name</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Pack Size</b>
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**

<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Product Name</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Pack Size</b>
Td	DITE BOOSTER	SSI	5
Pneumococcal	PNEUMOVAX 11	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	1

**Vaccines Used By HSE**

<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Product Name</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Pack Size</b>
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**

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

## COMMON QUERIES

### Interval between BCG and 2, 4 and 6 month vaccines

Q: What interval is required between BCG vaccination and the 2, 4 and 6 month childhood vaccines?

A: **No** interval is required between BCG and the 2, 4 and 6 month vaccines.

Although BCG is recommended at or shortly after birth occasionally it may be delayed until the baby is a few months old.

- There is no reason to postpone starting the routine vaccines at 2, 4 and 6 months. BCG and the routine vaccines can be given at any interval before or after each other.
- The routine vaccines at 2, 4 and 6 months are all inactivated vaccines and no interval is required between these and a live vaccine (BCG).
- In an older child there must be an interval of at least four weeks between BCG and MMR (as these are both live vaccines).

[http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Downloads/NIACGuidelines/PDFFile\\_15476\\_en.pdf](http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Downloads/NIACGuidelines/PDFFile_15476_en.pdf)

### Recording of vaccine batch number

Q: Which batch number and expiry date should be recorded for vaccines?

A: **MenC, Hib, MMR** vaccines require reconstitution and come as a vial containing powder and a prefilled syringe containing a diluent. The vial and syringe each have a batch number and expiry date.

When these vaccines are reconstituted **the correct batch number and expiry date to be used is on the outside of the box** - this is also the same batch number and expiry date as the peel off sticker on the vial or on the outside of the box.



Pic: Priorix (MMR Vaccine)



Pic: Infanrix Hexa (6 in 1 vaccine)

**6 in 1** vaccine comes as a vial containing Hib powder and a prefilled syringe containing the other 5 components. The vial and syringe each have a batch number and expiry date.

When **6 in 1** is reconstituted **the correct batch number and expiry date to be used is on the outside of the box** – this is also the same batch number and expiry date as the peel off stickers on the syringe and the vial.

## National Immunisation Office Staff

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