

National Immunisation News

The newsletter of the HSE National Immunisation Office

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

www.immunisation.ie

Changes to the Primary Childhood Immunisation Programme

The primary childhood immunisation schedule has changed for all babies born on or after July 1st 2015. These infants will only need two doses of MenC vaccine, given at 4 and 13 months of age.

The reason the schedule has changed is that we now know that two doses give babies as much protection as three doses.

There are no other changes being introduced this year.

A new edition of "Your child's immunisations - A guide for parents" and new information materials for parents have been published.

Babies born **before** 1st of July 2015 should continue with the current schedule (shown below).

CURRENT SCHEDULE		
Date of birth	Babies born up to 1st July 2015	
Age	Immunisations	Injections
2 months	6 in 1 + PCV	2
4 months	6 in 1 + MenC	2
6 months	6 in 1 + PCV + MenC	3
12 months	MMR + PCV	2
13 months	MenC + Hib	2

See **New** Schedule below

NEW SCHEDULE		
Date of birth	Babies born on or after 1 st July 2015	
Age	Immunisations	Injections
2 months	6 in 1 + PCV	2
4 months	6 in 1 + MenC	2
6 months	6 in 1 + PCV	2
12 months	MMR + PCV	2
13 months	MenC + Hib	2

6 in 1 Diphtheria, Haemophilus influenzae type b, Hepatitis B, Pertussis, Polio, Tetanus vaccine
 PCV Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
 MenC Meningococcal C vaccine
 MMR Measles, Mumps Rubella vaccine



See www.immunisation.ie for more information and www.healthpromotion.ie to order information materials

BCG Shortage – don't delay getting the vaccines at 2 months

The HSE is currently experiencing delays with the supply of BCG vaccine.

This is a Europe wide issue. BCG will not be delivered to Ireland until late July.

BCG vaccination in HSE Clinics and Maternity hospitals have been postponed until new stock arrives.

There is no need to delay the vaccines at 2 months if a baby has not had the BCG vaccine.

All infants should receive their routine vaccines at 2, 4 and 6 months.

All vaccines given at 2, 4 and 6 months are non live vaccines and can be given together on the same day, before or after the BCG vaccine.

BCG vaccination clinics will restart when the BCG vaccine becomes available.



Pertussis Vaccine

There is a global shortage of Pertussis vaccine and the supply of all pertussis containing vaccines to all countries is limited.

Therefore ordering of pertussis containing vaccines from the National Cold Chain Service (NCCS) is being closely monitored. Infanrix Hexa, Boostrix, and IPV Boostrix and IPV Infanrix all contain pertussis. No more than a 6 week stock should be in the fridge once a new order has been received and this should reduce to a week or two week's stock by the time a new delivery is due. IPV Infanrix is administered in most counties by the HSE School Immunisation Teams and therefore GPs in those counties should only have one or two doses in their fridge.

IPV Infanrix is now a restricted vaccine.

Please remember for all vaccines only order sufficient for one month and order monthly.

Mumps

In the first 5 months of this year there have been 1196 cases of mumps reported in Ireland. In 2014, 135 cases were reported for the same period of time.

Students starting college and those aged less than 25 are more at risk of getting mumps during the next academic year.

Students between 18-24 are most likely to be most affected because many of them only ever received one dose of MMR vaccine.

Students under 25 who have only had one dose of MMR need to have a second dose.

Students who were never vaccinated with MMR need two doses, separated by an interval of at least 4 weeks.

MMR vaccine is given as part of the Primary Childhood Immunisation Programme (due at 12 months of age) and to Junior Infants as part of the school vaccination programme.

Those not in either of these cohorts, who may need to be vaccinated, should go to their GP.

MMR vaccine is available to order through the cold chain.

Patients may need to pay the administration charge.



Order your vaccines online

Place your orders for HSE publicly funded vaccines on www.ordervaccines.ie

Don't forget to complete your online stock take before placing your 1st order.

Contact customer service if you have any queries

Clean out your fridge

This is a good time to clean out your vaccine fridge.

Any remaining Influenza vaccines for the 2014/2015 influenza season should be returned to the National Cold Chain Service.

Damaged or expired vaccines should also be returned.

A vaccine return form is available from

<http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/vaccineordering/gpvacreturn.pdf>.

Please complete the vaccine return form and place it in the box with vaccines which you are returning to the National Cold Chain Service van-driver.



What to do when there is a breakdown in the “Cold Chain”

A breakdown in the “Cold Chain” occurs when vaccines are NOT stored between +2°C and +8°C. If this happens due to a fridge breakdown, then transfer these vaccines to a working fridge and keep between +2°C and +8°C **in quarantine** until advised by the National Immunisation Office.

Contact the Chief Pharmacist or Medical Officer in the National Immunisation Office by phone (087 9915452 or 01 8676108) for advice.

The National Immunisation Office will carry out a risk assessment and will advise on a case by case basis whether it is appropriate to use the vaccines or whether they should be discarded.

NEVER use or dispose of any vaccine which has experienced a cold chain breach but keep these vaccines between +2°C and +8°C in quarantine until advised by the National Immunisation Office.



Common Queries

Q. If an infant is vaccinated with HepB vaccine at birth how many more doses does the infant require?

A: The National Immunisation Guidelines recommend that infants who receive a HepB vaccination at birth require a further 3 doses of HepB vaccine given as part of the 6 in 1 vaccine at 2, 4, and 6 months

<http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/chapter9.pdf>

Q. What should happen if some of the vaccine spills?

A: When some of the vaccine is lost (patient moves, syringe leaks), it is difficult to judge how much vaccine the patient received. You should not count this as a valid vaccination.

If the vaccine was non live, you should re-immunise the person as soon as possible, even at the same visit.

If the vaccine was live, a further dose should be given if you detect the error on the same day, otherwise wait 4 weeks to give the next dose.

However if part of an oral vaccine (rotavirus) was spit out, count the dose and do not administer a second dose.

Q. What should happen if an unconstituted vaccine is given?

A. Some vaccines require reconstitution e.g. MMR, BCG and MenC vaccines

This means if a vaccine is not reconstituted and just the diluent is given, this is not counted as a valid vaccine.

The person should be re-immunised as soon as possible. There is no need to wait 4 weeks to give a live vaccine as no vaccine was given in this situation,

This does not apply when the 6in1 vaccine has not been reconstituted.

6in1 prefilled syringe contains DTaP/IPV/Hep B. **The vial contains Hib powder.** If the prefilled syringe is not added to the vial and the person is vaccinated with prefilled syringe only, they have been vaccinated for DTaP/IPV/Hep B.

They do not need revaccination with 6in1. They need a single Hib vaccine only.

Q. What should you do if a vaccine is given too early?

A. If a vaccine is given before the minimum recommended interval, it is not considered as part of the primary series as there may be a sub-optimal immune response. The dose should be disregarded and another dose given at the recommended time, at least 1 month after the disregarded dose. However, giving a dose 4 days or less before the minimum recommended interval is unlikely to have a significant adverse effect on the immune response to that dose, and does not need to be repeated.



Current Vaccines List Updated July 2015

Primary Childhood Vaccines

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

Adult Vaccines

Vaccine	Product Name	Manufacturer	Pack Size
Td	DITE BOOSTER	SSI	5
Pneumococcal	PNEUMOVAX 23	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
	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
4 in 1	INFANRIX-IPV	GSK	1
Tdap	BOOSTRIX	GSK	1
Tdap/IPV	IPV-Boostrix	GSK	1
Td/IPV	Revaxis	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	1
MenACW ₁₃₅ Y	MENVEO	Novartis GSK	1
MenB	Bexsero	Novartis GSK	1

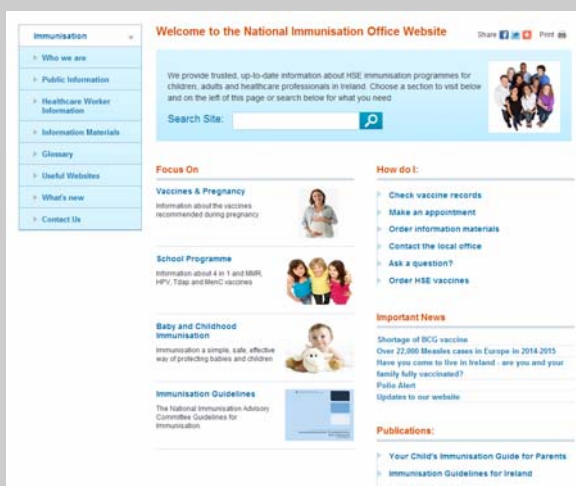
Order Information Materials

GP practices that offer Primary Childhood vaccines have received information materials for the new primary childhood schedule. If you wish to order more materials you can do so on www.healthpromotion.ie.

You will find our materials in the immunisation section.

If you register an account on the website you will have access to more materials and be able to order larger quantities for your practice.

Visit www.healthpromotion.ie today to order our information materials.



Visit our website

Our website www.immunisation.ie provides information to members of the public and healthcare professionals.

You can download copies of our information materials and access specific health professional guidelines.

We have a contact us tab should you have a question that you feel was not answered on our website.

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www.immunisation.ie