



Winter flu – what's new for next season

Publication of annual flu letter

The annual flu letter for 2017/18, giving information about the national flu immunisation programme for the coming winter, was published on 20 March 2017.

The main changes to the programme this coming winter are:

- GP's will receive payment for vaccinating the morbidly obese, for whom flu vaccination is recommended because of their increased risk from flu;
- Four year olds will be vaccinated at school rather than in general practice as previously. General practice will continue to offer flu vaccination to two and three year olds;
- The programme is being extended to all children in school year 4. This means that all school-aged children in reception class and years 1 to 4 will be offered flu vaccination. Provision will normally be in primary school settings apart from one or two areas in the country where alternative arrangements are in place.

The *Flu plan* for winter 2017/18, which sets out a coordinated and evidence-based approach to planning for and responding to the demands of flu across England, was published alongside the annual flu letter.

Both the documents can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme

Contents

Publication of annual flu letter

First report of coverage for the adolescent school leaver booster (Td/IPV) vaccine programme in England

Ordering for Fluenz Tetra® is now closed

Expiry dates for Fluenz Tetra®

Inactivated Flu Vaccines for the Children's Flu Programme remain available to order.

InterVax BCG vaccine and leaflets

HEP A/B Vaccine Supply

Change to Rabipur presentation for centrally supplied stock

MMR vaccines

Primary infant vaccine

Nimenrix Packaging change

Vaccines not procured and supplied centrally

One month to go to European Immunisation week and our conference!

First report of coverage for the adolescent school leaver booster (Td/IPV) vaccine programme in England

The school leaver booster is the fifth dose of tetanus, diphtheria and polio vaccine in the routine immunisation schedule and completes the course, providing long-term protection against all three diseases. Although Td/IPV vaccine has been offered to adolescents for many years, local variation in the age it is offered and the delivery models used (schools/GPs/mixed delivery) have made data collection challenging in the past.

The first vaccine coverage report for the Td/IPV schools-based immunisation programme in England has recently been published for the academic year 2015/16. Participation rate in the collection was high and data were provided for 96% (146/152) of the local authorities. All areas with GP-based programmes in 2015/16 except one have moved or have plans to move towards school-based programmes.

Estimated vaccine coverage was 83.5% for School Year 9 and 74.9% for Year 10, for students aged 13-14 and 14-15 years respectively. These estimates were similar to other school based programmes delivered around the same age such as MenACWY (84.1% coverage in year 9 and 77.2% in year 10 in 2015-16 – [weblink 6](#)). Year 9 Td/IPV coverage was also close to coverage reported for one dose of HPV vaccine in Year 8 delivered in the same academic year (87%), see [weblink 7](#).

The full report and associated data tables can be found at [weblink 8](#).

Vaccine Supply

Ordering for Fluenz Tetra[®] is now closed

The final batch of Fluenz Tetra[®] intranasal spray expires on 3 April 2017. Ordering closed on Friday 17 March.

Expiry dates for Fluenz Tetra[®]

All other batches of Fluenz Tetra[®] supplied for the 2016-17 children's flu vaccination programme **have now expired**. Expiry dates for all batches supplied for 2016/17 season are set out in the table below.

Please ensure that the expiry date is always checked before use and that any expired stock is disposed of in line with local policies. **Please record any stock that is disposed of due to expiry before use through the ImmForm website, on the Stock Incident page.**

Batch	Expiry date
HF2241 – expired	13 Dec 2016
HF2242 – expired	14 Dec 2016
HH2921 – expired	16 Dec 2016
HF2254 – expired	19 Dec 2016
HF2071 – expired	26 Dec 2016
HF2075 – expired	27 Dec 2016
HJ2344 – expired	10 Jan 2017
HJ2598 – expired	11 Jan 2017
HF2077 – expired	23 Jan 2017
HK2090 – expired	13 Mar 2017
HF2079	03 Apr 2017

Inactivated Flu Vaccines for the Children’s Flu Programme remain available to order.

Centrally supplied inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP has an expiry date of 31 May 2017, and Fluarix Tetra® an expiry date of 30 April 2017. They will remain available to order until around 2 weeks before their respective expiry dates.

These 2 vaccines also have order caps of 5 doses and 30 doses per order per week respectively. These controls continue to be regularly reviewed and any update will be provided through the ImmForm website.

Reporting any remaining unused Flu Vaccine Ordered for the Children’s Flu Programme

As the vaccination period for flu draws to a close, it is important to remember than any leftover vaccine that is held locally, but that has not been used is recorded on ImmForm, on the Stock Incident page. This is to ensure that all stock is accounted for and supports efforts across the system to reduce the level of vaccine which may go unused at the end of the season. Please ensure that you select the appropriate reason (i.e. ‘expired before use’ or ‘cold chain failure’) when recording the disposal of any stock.

Screen shot of incident reporting on ImmForm website – example e-form

Report an incident

Organisation: EnglandNHS

Incident Date: 13/01/2017

Incident Reason: Fluenz vaccine expired before it could be used

Incident Description:

Actions taken or planned following the incident:

When investigating a possible breach of the cold chain, healthcare professionals are strongly encouraged to make contact with their local NHS England Screening and Immunisation Team (SIT) in the first instance (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/>). It is important that all vaccines exposed to temperatures outside of the manufacturers recommendations are embargoed inside the same fridge until further advice from the SIT has been obtained. If possible, the vaccine fridge environment should not change. The fridge should remain switched on at the electrical supply and vaccines should be labelled as not for use- do not discard vaccines.

Vaccine	No. of doses
10TU - PPD	0
2TU - PPD	0
BCG SSI - BCG	0
Bexsero - Meningitis B	0
Boostrix IPV - Boostrix IPV	0
Fluarix Tetra - Flu (Quadrivalent inactivated)	0
Gardasil - HPV	0
Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (Split Virion) BP - Flu (Trivalent inactivated)	0
Infanrix/IPV+Hib - DTaP/IPV+Hib	0
Infanrix-IPV - DTaP/IPV	0
Mentorix - HIB/MEN C	0
MMR Vaxpro - MMR	0
NeisVac-C - MEN C	0
Nimenrix - Meningococcal Group ACWY Vaccine	0

Screen shot of incident reporting on ImmForm website – drop down reason list

Report an incident

Organisation: EnglandNHS

Incident Date: 13/01/2017

Incident Reason:

Incident Description:

Actions taken or planned following the incident:

- HPV vaccine unused as part of pilot programme for MSM
- HPV vaccine lost through cold chain failure, intended for the MSM pilot
- Faulty stock - reported to manufacturer
- Fluenz vaccine expired before it could be used
- Fridge equipment failure NOT as a result of loss of power
- Fridge switched off in error
- Fridge door left open in error
- Excess stock ordered in error
- MenC vaccine disposed of due to switch to MenACWY
- Stock left out of fridge in error

If you are unsure how to record this information you can find a help sheet on the ImmForm website. Alternatively, you can contact the helpdesk for assistance.

InterVax BCG vaccine and leaflets

As a reminder, the manufacturer's information leaflet that comes packaged within each box of InterVax BCG vaccine should be discarded and the PHE leaflets for patients and professionals supplied with each delivery should be referred to instead. **It is important that the additional leaflets delivered with each pack are provided to the healthcare workers administering the vaccine.** This ensures that both patients and healthcare workers are informed about the vaccine and its use. Electronic versions of these documents are also available on the PHE webpages available at [weblink 1](#).

Each InterVax BCG vaccine pack contains twenty 1ml ampoules of freeze dried vaccine, (a maximum of 400 paediatric doses) and also contains the following:

- 1 pack of InterVax BCG vaccine diluent (20 ampoules)
- 20 PHE leaflets for healthcare professionals
- 200 PHE leaflets for patients
- 10 additional plastic squares used to wrap ampoules prior to opening.

Please note that the future supply of BCG vaccine for the UK remains fluid, due to on-going manufacturing issues with the UK licensed supply from AJ Vaccines (formerly SSI) and the increased global demand which impacts availability of vaccine from other supply routes. The BCG vaccine continues to be made available in line with prioritisation advice to ensure this stock is directed to those at greatest risk. Therefore, only accounts seeing high numbers of at risk infants currently have access. ImmForm accounts with access will have been notified via email.

The central stock levels are closely monitored and restrictions on volumes ordered may be re-applied in future depending on demand and the security of future incoming supplies.

Providers are encouraged to continue to organise the administration of BCG vaccinations in ways that optimise the use of the multi-dose ampoules, for example by scheduling patients requiring BCG vaccine into the same clinic. For detailed information about the InterVax BCG vaccine please see the special edition of Vaccine Update available at [weblink 2](#).

Change to Rabipur presentation

From mid-2017, the presentation of Rabipur will change from a powder in a vial with a separate ampoule of solvent solution, to a vial of powder with a disposable pre-filled syringe containing solvent. Further details of the timing of the switch will be provided in forthcoming issues.

Images for the new pack are shown below.



Rabipur is supplied by PHE for certain pre-exposure indications and for post-exposure treatment.

MMR vaccines

To remind readers, there are 2 MMR vaccines supplied centrally, Priorix and MMRvaxPro, and they are interchangeable in the MMR vaccination schedule. Whereas Priorix contains no gelatine, MMRvaxPRO contains gelatine of porcine origin.

Orders for Priorix are currently restricted to 6 packs per order per week, in order to balance central stocks. The alternative vaccine, MMRvaxPro, remains available to order without restriction. These controls apply to customers in England, Scotland and Wales. Should additional MMRvaxPro be required due to local requirements please contact the ImmForm helpdesk.

Primary infant vaccine

Due to delivery delays, ordering for Pediacel remains restricted to 3 doses per order, per week in England. Restrictions are also in place for Wales and Scotland. The alternative vaccine Infanrix IPV Hib is available to order, with no restriction on volume.

Where possible and if local stock holding allows, it is preferable that the same DTaP/IPV-Hib containing vaccine be used for all three doses of the primary course. However, vaccination should never be delayed because the vaccine used for previous doses is not known or unavailable.

Nimenrix Packaging change

The packaging for Nimenrix supplied via ImmForm has been updated to reflect the change of manufacturer from GSK to Pfizer. An image of the new pack is shown below and the dimensions of the pack have changed slightly as follows:

- **Old GSK carton:** Width 55mm x Breadth 24mm x Length 133mm
- **New Pfizer carton:** Width 50mm x Breadth 28mm x Length 128mm

Please be aware of the size change when ordering vaccine as it may impact on the number of doses that can be stored locally.



New pack

Vaccines not procured and supplied centrally

The following is an update on the supply situation for vaccines purchased direct from the manufacturers (e.g. for travel and risk groups); these vaccines are not procured and supplied centrally for national immunisation programmes.

Hepatitis A vaccine

Adult vaccine

- Sanofi Pasteur currently have ordering restrictions in place of 7 doses per month per account for Avaxim.
- GSK are out of stock in some areas for Havrix pre-filled syringe single packs until the beginning of April 2017. Havrix pre-filled syringe packs of 10 are unavailable until 2018.
- MSD are out of stock of VAQTA and estimate that supplies will resume around mid-June.

Paediatric vaccine

- GSK have paediatric doses of Havrix Monodose available.
- MSD are out of stock of VAQTA and estimate that supplies will resume around mid-June.

Hepatitis B vaccine

Adult vaccine

- GSK have Engerix B pre-filled syringe singles and Engerix B vials in stock. Engerix B pre-filled syringe 10 packs are unavailable until 2018.
- GSK have supplies of Fendrix available.
- MSD currently have the HBVAXPRO 40µg preparation in stock. The HBVAXPRO 10µg preparation is currently out of stock, anticipated to be back in stock around early July.

Paediatric vaccine

- GSK have paediatric doses of Engerix B available.
- MSD currently have the HBVAXPRO 5µg preparation in stock.

Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B combined vaccine

Supplies of the adult and paediatric presentation (Twinrix and Ambirix) remain available from GSK.

The supply situation for these vaccines is based on manufacturers' disclosure to DH and PHE. The supply situation is dynamic and shortages from one supplier combined with increased demand due to outbreaks (e.g. hepatitis A clusters among men who have sex with men (MSM)) may put additional pressures on other manufacturers.

During this period of constrained hepatitis A and B vaccine supply, we advise that you:

- prioritise paediatric hepatitis B vaccine for infants in the selective neonatal hepatitis B immunisation programme, i.e. infants born to hepatitis B infected mothers receiving post exposure prophylaxis (PEP), followed by other lower risk indications for hepatitis B PEP
- offer combined hepatitis A and B vaccine in GUM/sexual health services if no monovalent hepatitis A vaccines are available for pre-exposure prophylaxis for at-risk MSM (those with a new or casual partner in the last 3 months) in hepatitis A outbreak areas; combination hepatitis A and B vaccine is also preferred for those MSM who have no or incomplete hepatitis B vaccination
- consider offering higher dose adult preparations of monovalent hepatitis B vaccine for pre-exposure prophylaxis in adults
- exercise restraint and observe manufacturers' restrictions when ordering vaccines
- consider ordering other presentations if the preferred or usual option is not available, e.g. vials instead of pre-filled syringes

Hepatitis B vaccine administration should never be delayed for infants born to hepatitis B infected mothers, as these infants have been exposed to a substantial volume of infectious blood during the birthing process. Please see Vaccine Update: Issue 248, June 2016 (see [weblink 3](#)) for further advice on alternative products if paediatric vaccine is not available.

Rabies vaccine

- GSK currently have vials of Rabipur available and a new presentation of pre-filled syringes and vials should also be available in April.
- Sanofi Pasteur have intermittent supply constraints with the licensed preparation (Rabies Vaccine BP) and customers may wish to discuss obtaining supplies with Sanofi directly.

Combined Hepatitis A and Typhoid vaccines

- Sanofi Pasteur are experiencing supply constraints with ViaTIM until late October 2017.
- GSK is out of stock of Hepatyrix until at least 2019.

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine

MSD have order restrictions in place of Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine until around late April following previous supply constraints.

One month to go to European Immunisation week and our conference!



Vaccines for life

We have been making our final changes to the agenda for the upcoming conference. Thank-you to everyone who has already registered. There are a few places left as we are going to press but please aim to register ASAP to ensure that you don't miss out.

PHE National Immunisation Network Meeting
Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 April 2017
09:00 to 16:00
London – www.phe-events.org.uk/NIN2017

This year's *National Immunisation Network Meeting* (see [weblink 4](#)) is being held in European Immunization week which is being celebrated between 25-30 April 2017 in conjunction with other World Health Organization (WHO) regional initiatives and World Immunization week. As well as presentations from world class epidemiologists and experts in immunisation from the UK and the Netherlands, we look forward to welcoming the Professor Peter McIntyre, Director of the National Centre for Immunisation Research and surveillance, Australia, as our keynote speaker.

Registration and coffee will be from 08:15 to 08:55 and the meeting will run from 09:00 to 16:00. The meeting will take place at The Grand Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DA. To see full details about the programme and to book your place, please visit the meeting website at [weblink 5](#).

ATTENTION ALL CUSTOMERS – BANK HOLIDAY DELIVERIES WARNING NOTICE

Due to the Easter Bank Holiday, and the Early May Bank Holiday there will be **no deliveries or order processing** by Movianto UK on Friday 14th April, Monday 17th April 2017 and Monday 1st May 2017. Please see the table below for revised order and delivery dates.

For customers with delivery dates of Friday or Monday, please be aware that after the 7th and 10th of April, your next available delivery day will be the 21st and 24th of April respectively. There will also be no deliveries on 1st May and the next available delivery day following this will be the 8th May.

For customers requiring a scheduled delivery on the 18th and 19th April, orders will need to be placed before the Easter Bank Holiday by 11:55AM on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th April respectively.

For customers requiring a scheduled delivery on the 2nd or 3rd May, orders will need to be placed before the Early May Bank Holiday by 11:55AM on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th April respectively.

You are reminded to be prepared for the break in deliveries and to order accordingly. Please make sure you have sufficient room in your fridge for any additional vaccine you wish to stock over this holiday period, bearing in mind the recommendation that only two to four weeks of vaccine stock be held at any one time.

Easter and early May Bank Holiday orders and deliveries – Revised Table

Delivery date	Order cut-off date	Order cut-off time
Friday, 07/04/2017	Wednesday, 05/04/2017	11:55 AM
Monday, 10/04/2017	Thursday, 06/04/2017	11:55 AM
Tuesday, 11/04/2017	Friday, 07/04/2017	11:55 AM
Wednesday, 12/04/2017	Monday, 10/04/2017	11:55 AM
Thursday, 13/04/2017	Tuesday, 11/04/2017	11:55 AM
Friday, 14/04/2017	Closed – No deliveries	
Monday, 17/04/2017	Closed – No deliveries	
Tuesday, 18/04/2017	Wednesday, 12/04/2017	11:55 AM
Wednesday, 19/04/2017	Thursday, 13/04/2017	11:55 AM

Delivery date	Order cut-off date	Order cut-off time
Thursday, 20/04/2017	Tuesday, 18/04/2017	11:55 AM
Friday, 21/04/2017	Wednesday, 19/04/2017	11:55 AM
Monday, 24/04/2017	Thursday, 20/04/2017	11:55 AM
Tuesday, 25/04/2017	Friday, 21/04/2017	11:55 AM
Wednesday, 26/04/2017	Monday, 24/04/2017	11:55 AM
Thursday, 27/04/2017	Tuesday, 25/04/2017	11:55 AM
Friday, 28/04/2017	Wednesday, 26/04/2017	11:55 AM
Monday, 01/05/2017	Closed – No deliveries	
Tuesday, 02/05/2017	Thursday, 27/04/2017	11:55 AM
Wednesday, 03/05/2017	Friday, 28/04/2017	11:55 AM
Thursday, 04/05/2017	Tuesday, 02/05/2017	11:55 AM
Friday, 05/05/2017	Wednesday, 03/05/2017	11:55 AM

Please be advised that Emergency or “Out of Schedule” deliveries cannot be arranged for failure to place orders in good time.

Web links

- web link 1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation#tuberculosis>
- web link 2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update>
- web link 3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-248-june-2016>
- web link 4 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-258-february-2017-nin-special-edition>
- web link 5 <https://www.phe-events.org.uk/hpa/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=266331&eventID=672&traceRedir=2&eventID=672>
- web link 6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningococcal-acwy-immunisation-programme-vaccine-coverage-estimates>
- web link 7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-hpv-vaccine-coverage-2015-to-2016-by-local-authority-and-area-team>
- web link 8 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-leaver-booster-tdipv-vaccine-coverage-estimates>