This month’s news from the Immunisation Team

H1N1 swine flu vaccination programme

NHS and social care sector staff are working hard to help prepare for the impact that the swine flu pandemic may have. The Department of Health (DH) is developing an H1N1 swine flu vaccination strategy that is intended to help PCTs plan locally for the delivery of a vaccination programme. Detailed guidance will be sent to you as soon as it is available. In the meantime, the information provided below gives an early outline of some of the issues.

Vaccine procurement
Manufacturers are still working on developing the vaccine and based on the current forecast, we still expect to have around 60 million doses by the end of the year, with the first batches coming in August. These predictions are as accurate as possible considering that manufacturers are dealing with the production and testing of complex biological products.

The vaccines
Contracts for two vaccines are in place – one made by GSK and the other by Baxter. Whichever vaccine is used, two doses are currently recommended, given at least three weeks apart. The same vaccine must be used for both doses – they are not interchangeable – so accurate recording of the first dose is essential to ensure that individuals get two doses of the same vaccine.

Storage
As for other vaccines, they should be stored between +2°C and +8°C. Both vaccines come in multi-dose vials – detailed information on their reconstitution and use will be supplied separately.

Priority groups
Priority for vaccination of certain individuals and groups will be needed because the vaccine will be delivered in phases. The decision on prioritisation will be on the basis of epidemiological evidence, vaccine supply and capacity of the NHS to implement the programme. This decision will be subject to further work over the summer period.

Information materials and publicity
The DH is preparing a range of information materials to support the vaccination programme. These will include a leaflet, surgery poster and vaccine record card available to be ordered through the DH orderline. In addition, there will be web-based resources including a new Green book chapter, fact sheet, Q&A, consent form template, patient group

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directive (PGD) template and patient and parent vaccine invitation letters. Training materials to support NHS staff are also being developed. Materials should be available from late July onwards.

A communication campaign is being planned to raise awareness and understanding of the vaccination programme. More details will be given once the plans are finalised.

**Data recording and data collection**

Accurate data recording and collection will be vital in assessing the roll out and impact of the vaccination campaign. As two doses of vaccine are required and the two brands of vaccine are not interchangeable, data will need to be collected per dose, by brand. We will ensure the appropriate recording codes (READ/SNOMED) become available to facilitate this and further details will be issued in due course.

We will ensure that PCTs are kept up to date as any new information becomes available.

In fact, we had a very helpful meeting on 8 July with SHA and PCT coordinators, and pandemic flu leads. The discussions at this meeting will play an important part in shaping the implementation of the vaccination programme. We will let you know, as soon as possible, the next steps that you should be taking. Copies of the presentations from the meeting are available at web link 1. Questions and answers from that meeting will be posted on the website by mid-July.

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**Immunisation news**

**Rise in measles and mumps cases continues to cause concern**

New data from the Health Protection Agency shows that measles and mumps cases continue to rise in England. For the period January to April in 2009, the number of confirmed measles cases increased to over 600 (web link 2). For the same period, the HPA have confirmed 2886 cases of mumps. This exceeds the annual totals for the previous two years (web link 3).

It is vital that action is taken to continue to identify those children under 18 years old who are unvaccinated, or not fully vaccinated with two doses of MMR, and to ensure they are offered the MMR vaccine. In addition, PCTs should consider the need to vaccinate university-age populations to prevent further outbreaks (web link 4).

Data by PCT on MMR uptake in people aged 5 to 18 years is available at web link 5.

Measles leaflets and posters supporting the campaign are available at web link 6.

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JCVI introduces more flexibility in administering vaccines at 12 and 13 months

The routine childhood schedule states that children should receive Hib/Men C vaccine at 12 months of age, and MMR and pneumococcal vaccines at 13 months.

At their meeting this month, JCVI concluded that it is acceptable to deliver MMR, PCV and Hib/Men C vaccines at the same time. This followed evidence from a clinical study that showed no additional adverse reactions following the administration of all three vaccines at the same time. This new advice, which will be reflected in the Green Book in due course, introduces flexibility to the childhood schedule.

The routine childhood schedule remains unchanged. However, this new advice allows for flexibility in the administration of these vaccines.

Practitioners may choose to deliver all three vaccines at 12 months, or at 13 months, or keep to the routine schedule. Practitioners must ensure that the vaccines are properly recorded on the child’s medical records.

HPV vaccination accelerated catch-up campaign

Almost all PCTs have agreed to follow an accelerated schedule for delivering the HPV vaccination programme (see web link 7).

The transfer of funds to PCTs has been completed. Each PCT can find their financial allocation by logging into ImmForm (web link 8) using your PCT login details and password.

We appreciate that earlier delivery of the HPV vaccine accelerated schedule means additional efforts at a local level. However, the success of the HPV vaccine delivery so far is a credit to the hard work and commitment invested by staff and has already given additional health benefits to those girls who have received it.

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Resources

**HPV accelerated catch-up programme**

As mentioned in April’s edition of *Vaccine Update* (web link 9), a new ‘combined age’ leaflet and poster have been produced to support this programme. They are now available to order from the DH orderline in the normal way (see web link 10). There is also a new letter to parents and guardians that can be downloaded at web link 11 and a letter to head teachers advising them of the programme is being sent out by the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families this month.

The full range of HPV resources can be viewed at web link 12 including the pdf-only factsheet. Please note this version has amended figures on adverse reactions on page 13.

**The Green book**

The Green book is the key reference for the immunisation programme in the UK. The hard copy version was printed in 2006 and update patches are available on the DH website, see web link 13.

Many of the queries that the Department of Health Immunisation branch receive from the field regarding immunisation administration are already answered in the Green Book. You can order a FREE copy by emailing customer.services@tso.co.uk with your NHS pin number, see web link 14. Don’t forget to download the patches and stick them in to your copy so you’re always up to date with the latest information.

**Vaccine uptake**

**HPV vaccine**

The latest uptake levels continue to be very encouraging which is down to the excellent efforts of all the health professionals involved. For the latest uptake information go to web link 15 where the latest figures have recently been uploaded.

**Cover**

The quarterly COVER data were published at the end of June. It shows a consistent improvement in childhood vaccine uptake – see web link 16.
**Pneumococcal (PPV) vaccine**

The collection of data for the pneumococcal (PPV) vaccine uptake survey is provisionally scheduled to start in August (exact date to be confirmed). This year the dataset has been revised to include clinical risk groups broken down by age bands:

- 2 to 15 years at risk
- 16 to 64 years at risk
- 65 years and over

The collection has been approved by the Review of Central Returns Steering Committee (ROCR); reference number ROCR/OR/0114/002.

PCTs have been advised of this proposed schedule.

The dataset and PCT advice letter are available at web link 17.

**Vaccine supply**

**Pre-school boosters**

Infanrix/IPV, manufactured by GSK, is now available to order for pre-school boosting. This vaccine, or alternatively Repevax, manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur MSD, should be given to children coming in for their pre-school booster.

The Hib catch-up campaign ended in March. This campaign was aimed at children born between 3 March 2003 and 3 September 2005 only – children outside this age range should be offered Infanrix/IPV or Repevax for pre-school boosting.

**MMR vaccine**

In order to balance stock levels, only Priorix, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline, will be available to order for the foreseeable future. If you have any queries on this, or any other vaccine supply issues, please email vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk
HPV vaccine – online ordering now live

We are pleased to announce that following a successful pilot, the vaccine supply website (see web link 18) is now available to all PCTs for the bulk ordering of HPV vaccine for their local delivery points (which are most likely to be GP practices).

We have registered each of the 152 PCTs on the system and have passed the nominated contacts their login/password credentials. We would very much like to thank each PCT for their hard work and prompt responses as well as providing the details to allow this to happen. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

The Vaccine Supply System (VSS) (see web link 18) is now the primary method for PCTs to order HPV for their local delivery points and we should be grateful if all orders could be placed via the website. The VSS provides a number of key benefits (such as e-mailed order and dispatch confirmations) which we think that both PCTs and the delivery point contacts will find useful.

Therefore, we advise all nominated PCT contacts for HPV ordering to log into the system as soon as possible and check that all of the delivery points listed under your PCT account are correct.

If you have missing or redundant accounts for delivery points or have not received your login credentials please contact us at VaccineSupplyTechSupport@dh.gsi.gov.uk
Web links

Web link 1  www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Professional_information/Events
Web link 3  www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/news/#mumps
Web link 4  www.immform.dh.gov.uk
Web link 5  www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Professional_information/
          Key_vaccine_information/MMR
Web link 6  www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/MMR/Resources
Web link 7  www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Professional_information/CMO_letters
Web link 8  www.immform.dh.gov.uk
Web link 9  www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Professional_information/Vaccine_Update
Web link 10 www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Library/Publications
Web link 11 www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Professional_Information/
          Key_vaccine_information/HPV
Web link 12 www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/HPV/Resources
Web link 13 www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Healthprotection/Immunisation/
          Greenbook/DH_4097254
Web link 14 www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Library/Publications/Green_Book_and_others/
          Green_Book_and_Other_resources
Web link 15 www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Professional_Information/
          Key_vaccine_information/HPV
Web link 16 www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/
          1204031507699?p=1204031507699
Web link 17 www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Professional_Information/
          Key_vaccine_information/Pneumococcal
Web link 18 www.immform.dh.gov.uk

Register now – feedback – contact us
To receive a copy of Vaccine Update emailed direct to you each month, to provide any
comments or suggestions, or if you have a query about any aspect of vaccine supply,
please email us at vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk

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