

National Immunisation NEWS

The newsletter of the National Immunisation Office
National Directorate of Population Health



2006: Issue 1

In this issue

- [About the National Immunisation Office](#)
- [Over 1.7 million vaccines delivered](#)
- [98% customers happy with National Cold Chain Delivery Service](#)
- [Give us your feedback](#)
- [Collection of Expired/Sub-optimal vaccine \(Influenza Vaccine\)](#)
- [Immunisation Website - worth a visit](#)



Welcome to the First Edition

Welcome to the first edition of the National Immunisation News. Through it the newly established National Immunisation Office hopes to keep you informed about the supply of vaccines and to advise you of any changes under the Health Services Executive (HSE) funded immunisation programmes. The newsletter will be issued three times a year.



About the National Immunisation Office

A National Immunisation Office (NIO) has now been established in Health Protection in the Directorate of Population Health. The areas of work of the NIO include;

- Vaccine Procurement and provision
- Further development and expansion of the National Vaccine Delivery Service
- Provision of up-to-date Information Leaflets for parents and health professionals
- National Influenza Campaign and collaboration with National Pandemic Preparedness Committee
- National Immunisation Website www.immunisation.ie
- Provision of a National Immunisation Registry

Who are we?

Dr Brenda Corcoran, Specialist in Public Health Medicine
Ms Cliona Kiersey, Chief Pharmacist
Ms Lesley Smith, ICT Project Manager
Ms Mary Dowling, Administrator

brenda.corcoran@mailr.hse.ie
cliona.kiersey@maila.hse.ie
lesley.smith@mailr.hse.ie
maryb.dowling@mailr.hse.ie



HSE Population Health Directorate,
Unit 8/9 Manor Street Business Park,
Manor Street,
Dublin 7.
Tel: 01-8682942 Fax: 01-8682943

Over 1.7 million vaccines distributed by new National Vaccine Delivery System

Since September 2004 a national cold chain delivery system has been in place.

To date this new service has delivered over 1.7 million vaccines. Vaccines are delivered on a monthly basis to over 1200 sites. (GP surgeries, hospitals and health centres). There is provision for unscheduled deliveries if emergencies arise.



Cold chain maintenance is important for vaccine potency and the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPCs) for all vaccines specify they should be stored between 2-8⁰C. When vaccines are exposed to repeated episodes of heat the loss of potency is cumulative and cannot be reversed.

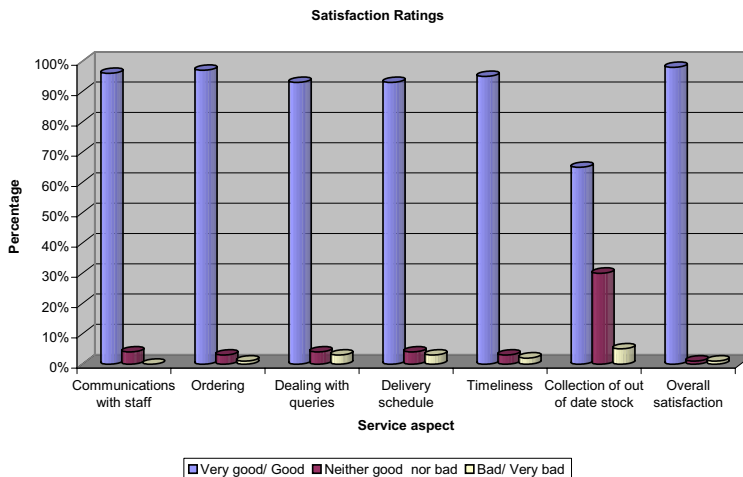
Freezing will cause irreversible damage and for vaccines that are freeze-sensitive, the loss of potency following freezing is immediate and these vaccines must not be administered.



How well is the Vaccine Delivery System working?

Between December 1st 2005 and January 31st 2006 a customer satisfaction survey was carried out. There was a 39% response rate to a self-administered questionnaire.

98% rated the service as very good or good!



What needs to be changed/enhanced?

- **Improve awareness of collection of out of date stock.**
- **Develop a variety of methods by which orders can be placed. (41% would prefer to order via email or the Internet).**

These will be addressed over the coming months!

Was the information we sent you in January/February useful?

A record of vaccines supplied during 2005 was sent to each site early this year. This was created to assist in order forecasting for 2006. Let us know if you found this useful or if there is any other information that we should be supplying to sites.

What to do with expired/sub-optimal vaccines?

Collection of expired or suboptimal vaccine is available at each delivery. In 2005 26% of delivery sites returned expired/sub-optimal vaccines with a value of over €400,000. The reasons for returns are varied - however 13% of these returns made were due to power failures or fridge breakdowns. It is important to return expired or suboptimal vaccines in a timely manner to help us plan.

INFLUENZA VACCINE

Unused influenza vaccines are now being collected by the vaccine delivery system. Please ensure that you have all your unused influenza vaccine ready for collection at your next delivery.

Primary Childhood Immunisation Programme – available vaccines.

The following are currently being distributed:

Trade Name	Vaccine
▪ BCG	BCG
▪ Pentavac	DTaP/IPV/Hib (5 in 1) - Now supplied without needle
▪ Menjugate	Meningitis C
▪ Priorix	MMR - Now available in single doses as well as packs of ten
▪ Tetravax or Infanrix 4:1	DTaP/IPV (4 in 1) - Now supplied without needle DTaP/IPV (4 in 1)
▪ Diftavax	Td

Visit us on-line!



For up to date information on childhood and adult immunisations for health professionals and the general public.

www.immunisation.ie

Our website recently received World Health Organisation accreditation.

If you wish to receive this newsletter on a regular basis or have any comments please e-mail us at maryb.dowling@mailr.hse.ie
