

# National Immunisation News

The newsletter of the HSE National Immunisation Office

July 2016

## Changes to the Primary Childhood Immunisation Programme

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) has recommended the addition of meningococcal B (MenB) and rotavirus vaccines to the primary childhood programme.

The new schedule outlined below will be introduced for **all babies born on or after October 1st 2016**.

| CURRENT SCHEDULE |               |                  | Babies born on or after<br>1st October 2016 |                  |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|---|------------------|
| Age (months)     | Vaccine       | No of injections | Vaccine                                     | No of injections |
| 2                | 6 in 1 +PCV   | 2                | 6 in 1 + PCV+ MenB + Rotavirus              | 3 + oral vaccine |
| 4                | 6 in 1 + MenC | 2                | 6 in 1 + MenB + Rotavirus                   | 2 + oral vaccine |
| 6                | 6 in 1 + PCV  | 2                | 6 in 1 + PCV + MenC                         | 3                |
| 12               | MMR + PCV     | 2                | MMR + MenB                                  | 2                |
| 13               | MenC + Hib    | 2                | Hib/MenC + PCV                              | 2                |

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 6 in 1    | Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b, hepatitis B |
| PCV       | Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine  |
| MenB      | Meningococcal B vaccine   |
| Rotavirus | Rotavirus oral vaccine  |
| MenC      | Meningococcal C vaccine   |
| MMR       | Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine   |
| Hib/MenC  | Haemophilus influenzae type b/ Meningococcal C vaccine                            |

## Measles outbreak, Ireland 2016

An outbreak of measles has been declared in Ireland. Several cases have been identified and the areas most affected are the East, South, and Midwest. Most of these cases are under 30 years of age.

Most of those who have been infected did not know they had been in contact with measles. Most had not had the MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella) vaccine. See update at <http://www.hpsc.ie/News/MainBody,15738,en.html>



In Europe between 1 June 2015 and 31 May 2016, 30 EU/EEA Member states reported 1800 cases of measles. More than half of the cases were reported during the first five months of 2016. The highest notification rates were observed in Lithuania (17.8 per million) and Romania (12.2).

It is important to ensure that children and teenagers are protected against measles infection in Ireland and when travelling outside of Ireland to other countries or regions/cities where measles outbreaks are reported. To be fully protected, 2 doses of MMR are required.

## New Primary Childhood Immunisation Schedule

**The new schedule includes the following:**

- Addition of meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine at 2, 4 and 12 months
- Addition of rotavirus vaccine at 2 and 4 months
- Change of MenC1 from 4 to 6 months
- Change of PCV3 from 12 to 13 months
- Replacement of Hib and MenC with Hib/MenC at 13 months (2 injections to 1 injection)

Further details including training materials and new information leaflets, and posters will be sent to you well in advance of new schedule start date.

## BCG vaccine shortage

There has been no supply of BCG vaccine to Ireland since April 2015. This problem is also affecting most other countries in Europe. The vaccine manufacturer Statens Serum Institut has informed the HSE that BCG vaccine will not be delivered into Ireland until further notice.

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) have been seeking to find an

alternative supply of BCG that meets safety, quality and effectiveness standards. To date no appropriate alternative manufacturer of BCG vaccine has been found. In 2015 the National



Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) recommended to the Department of Health that only those babies who are at risk of TB should have the BCG vaccine. However no decision has been made by the Department of Health to introduce this change to the BCG vaccination programme.

## Primary School Vaccination Programme 2016/2017

### Change of 4in1 Booster to IPV Boostrix

Due to the world shortage of pertussis vaccine it is not possible to source the 4in1 vaccine Infanrix IPV for use in the school vaccination programme. Therefore NIAC has approved the use of the 4in1 vaccine IPV Boostrix for the school year 2016/2017.

IPV Boostrix contains low dose diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis antigens in combination with poliomyelitis antigens, See SmPC at [http://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/LicenseSPC\\_PA1077-101-001\\_17092015161039.pdf](http://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/LicenseSPC_PA1077-101-001_17092015161039.pdf).

## Pertussis Vaccination in Pregnancy - Boostrix (Tdap)

NIAC recommends that all pregnant women should be offered Tdap during 27 -36 weeks gestation in each pregnancy, to protect themselves and their infants. <http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/chapter15.pdf>

Pertussis is a serious preventable disease and vaccination is the best way to reduce the risk of infection in the mother and to reduce the morbidity and mortality in infants too young to be vaccinated.

There have been 81 cases of pertussis to date this year, 37 cases under 6 months. One infant has died because of pertussis infection.

**Pregnant women should be advised regarding the recommendations for pertussis vaccination.**

There is widespread evidence that pregnant women are up to 50 times more likely to be vaccinated when this is recommended by a health professional.

Supplies of Tdap booster vaccine (Boostrix) are available to order from the HSE National Cold Chain Service. There is no GP administration fee agreed for this vaccination so all patients attending GPs will be liable for an administration fee (including those with a medical or doctor only card).

## HPV Vaccine Safety

The 2015 the European Medicines Agency (EMA) review of HPV vaccines was endorsed by the EU in January 2016. The EU recommended the HPV vaccination in all EU member states to protect women from cervical cancer.

The Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine

Safety (GACVS) of the World Health Organization has systematically investigated safety concerns raised about HPV vaccines and has issued several reports in this regard. In December 2015, WHO reported that, it has not found any safety issue that would alter its recommendations for the use of the vaccine.

There is no evidence to support claims that the HPV vaccine causes Chronic Fatigue Syndrome like symptoms.

Since 2006, 205 million doses of Gardasil have been distributed worldwide. Gardasil is currently used in over 25 European countries, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. More than 60 million people have been vaccinated.

Since 2010, 660,000 doses of Gardasil have been administered and over 200,000 Irish girls have been fully vaccinated against HPV.

## Fatal diphtheria case in unvaccinated 3-year-old child in Belgium 2016

Diphtheria is now a rare disease in Europe but when it does occur it is serious and may be fatal in up to 20% of cases. Those most at risk of developing diphtheria are unvaccinated, or partially vaccinated, individuals. Diphtheria infection can cause heart failure, pneumonia and paralysis of the muscles used for swallowing.

In March 2016, a 3-year-old unvaccinated Belgian child died of diphtheria. The child had been born and was living in Belgium. The disease is caused by toxigenic *Corynebacterium diphtheria*. Less than one year ago another unvaccinated child died from diphtheria in Spain.

These deaths highlight the importance of diphtheria vaccination for all children.



## Students going to college

Many young people have not had two doses of MMR vaccine.

In addition to measles cases there are also cases of mumps in students in 3rd level colleges. There have been 342 cases of mumps reported to date in 2016. Most of the cases are in young adults under the age of 35.

If students have not had (or are not sure if they have had) two doses of MMR vaccine they should be advised about MMR vaccine.

MenC vaccine should be offered to students, under the age of 23, who come to study in Ireland and who have never received MenC vaccine.

## Common Queries

### **A 2-month-old was mistakenly given PPV23 instead of PCV13. What should be done?**

Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23) is not effective in children less than 24 months of age.

PPV23 given at this age should not be considered to be part of the pneumococcal vaccination series.

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) should be administered as soon as the error is discovered.

Invasive pneumococcal disease is most common and most serious in children less than 2 years of age so it is important to protect this infant with the correct vaccine (PCV13) as soon as possible.

Any time the wrong vaccine is given, the parent/patient should be notified.

This vaccine error should be reported to the manufacturer.

### **What should I do if there's a planned power cut**

- Keep room cold as possible
- Fill the fridge & keep it locked
- Record temperature and use a datalogger
- Confirm vaccines are covered by practice insurance.

Please go to the Vaccine Ordering and Storage section of [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie) to see

### **Recommendations for maintenance of Vaccine Fridge within Temperature during a Planned Power-cut**



## Order Information Materials

GP practices that offer Primary Childhood vaccines will receive information materials for the new primary childhood schedule. If you wish to order more materials you can do so in the immunisation section of [www.healthpromotion.ie](http://www.healthpromotion.ie). 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](http://www.healthpromotion.ie) today to order our information materials.



## Visit our website

Our website [www.immunisation.ie](http://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.



## National Immunisation Office Staff

### Staff changes

Vicky McKenna has joined the NIO as Project Support to the National Immunisation and Child Health Information System (NICIS). Welcome to the NIO Vicky!

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# Current Vaccines List

## Updated July 2016

| Primary Childhood Vaccines                  |                               |                    |           |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Vaccine                                     | Product Name                  | Manufacturer       | Pack Size |
| 6 in 1                                      | INFANRIX HEXA                 | GSK                | 10        |
| MenC  | MENJUGATE                     | 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   | MMRVAXPRO                     | 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 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         |
| MenACW135Y                                  | MENVEO                        | GSK                | 1         |
| MenB  | BEXSERO                       | GSK                | 1         |