



VACCS line

Quarterly newsletter

Winter 2009— Issue 10



Welcome to the winter edition of the VACCSline newsletter

About VACCSline

In 2009 VACCSline enters its 4th year. Operating five days a week, VACCSline can be accessed by telephone or email. If an immunisation advisor cannot take your call immediately please leave a message, including when you are able to take a return call or email the address below.

VACCSline is used by a large number of callers enquiring about a broad range of topics. In the 6 months from March to September 2008 VACCSline received 644 immunisation enquiries from 197 different workplaces. Almost 69% of callers were Practice Nurses, 10% Health Visitors, 6% GPs and 4% School Nurses the remaining 11% coming from other areas such as practice managers, specialist nurses and other doctors. The commonest topic of enquiries is around Non UK immunisation schedules and incomplete immunisation status, however the breadth of topic of enquiries is wide. All calls are recorded on a database which allow the immunisation advisors to reference previously given advice for more complicated or unusual questions.

The service is jointly run by the Thames Valley Health Protection Unit and the Oxford Vaccine Group and through these two groups the immunisation advisors can contact specialists such as Consultants in Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Communicable Disease Control and Vaccinology, to discuss complex queries.

Current Topics in Immunisation for the Thames Valley

12 month booster and PCV and MMR vaccines

Recent enquiries have asked for advice about how to proceed when a child attends for immunisation at 13 months and has not yet received the Hib/Men C booster due at 12 months? Which vaccines should be given and in what order?

Answer— The MMR and PCV should be given and the benefit of also giving Hib/Men C assessed. The Green Book advice (page 300) is that whilst Hib/Men C should not be routinely given together as a precautionary measure, under certain circumstances, including consideration of whether or not the child will return, they can be given on the same day or at any interval. There is no need to leave a one month interval, as the only live vaccine is MMR. If you doubt that the child will be brought back in a timely way for the Hib/Men C then giving all three together is good practice.

Entirely preventable diseases affecting the Thames Valley population

The problem:

One PCT in the Thames Valley notified 87 cases of **mumps** between October and November 2008, in both children and young adults. Most of the cases could have been avoided if immunisation gaps had been detected at registration and protection offered to these vulnerable patients.

A case of **rubella** in a non immune pregnant adult who had moved to the UK would also have been preventable by identification and follow up of immunisation history.

Of four outbreaks of **measles** in travelling communities within the Thames Valley over the past year, three were in communities that accepted MMR readily when offered.

The solution:

Every patient registered at a practice should have a complete immunisation history. The registration of new patients provides an ideal opportunity to identify overdue immunisations which can then be offered to the patient. Alerts can also be put on their record to promote opportunistic vaccination at other contacts with the practice. This can be particularly critical for members of communities such as students and travelling communities which suffer rapid spread of communicable disease due to living in close proximity. In older patients, incomplete immunisation status is often picked up during a consultation prior to international travel leaving little time to ensure the individual is fully vaccinated prior to travel. Therefore a systematic approach to identifying gaps may be most beneficial in increasing coverage.

Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service

Call on 0845 279 9878 or email vaccs.line@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk

DH vaccine supply newsletter

Vaccine Update

For all the latest news on vaccine programmes, supply and green book changes all immunisers or health care professionals involved in immunisation are encouraged to read the monthly Department of Health publication, Vaccine Update. This is a good way to stay current with immunisation issues as part of continuing professional development.

Current and past editions can be viewed at the following weblink;

http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Library/Publications/Vaccine_Update

Editions can be emailed automatically, details are on the first page of the publication.

The immunisation advisors at VACCsline will often refer to this publication when answering enquiries.

VACCsline newsletter

The VACCsline newsletter is published quarterly for all health care professionals involved in immunisation across the Thames Valley.

The emphasis is on local immunisation issues unlike Vaccine Update which focuses on national issues.

If you would like to a copy of the newsletter emailed directly to you then please email your request to; elly.kilsby@hpa.org.uk

If you have any suggestions for topics you would like included please email;

Vaccs_line@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk

Oxford Vaccine Group Conference—Tuesday 17th March 2009

Booking are now being taken for the Oxford Vaccine Group's annual immunisation conference, the cost for attending is £35. A full programme can viewed and a registration form downloaded from the OVG website at <http://www.paediatrics.ox.ac.uk/ovg/teaching.html> . Alternatively you can email ovg.conference@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk or call Sue Sheaf conference organiser on 01865 231701

Talks will include roll out of the HPV programme, Immunology and immunosuppressed patients, Vaccinating vulnerable groups, Visiting friends and relatives overseas, Rabies, Epidemiological surveillance's role in directing immunisation programmes, New vaccines—Meningitis B and pneumococcal vaccine research, Meningitis C vaccination and the chance to quiz an expert panel with your immunisation questions.

Upcoming Immunisation Training

Oxfordshire	25th Feb 2009 Immunisation Study Day, Oxford. 20 places are available to staff from other PCTs please contact Kay Hewer for details	Contact: Kay Hewer, Training Administrator 01865 336815 or http://www.oxweb.nhs.uk
Buckinghamshire	27th Feb 2009 New skills for immunisers	Contact: Education, learning & development 01296 310117
Berkshire	Contact Learning and Development for forthcoming immunisation training	Contact: Sarah Manning, Booking Administrator 0118 949 5179

VACCsline provides consistent advice on childhood & adult (non travel) immunisations to health professionals across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Berkshire.

Immunisation enquiries in East Berkshire should continue to be directed to Dr. Marilyn Lansley, Immunisation Co-ordinator for the Berkshire East PCT either on her office number 01344 458109 or her mobile 0771 247 1375. Her office number may be given to patients.

For advice on adult travel immunisations, practitioners are directed to the National Travel Health Network and Centre www.nathnac.org or call 0845 602 6712 Monday – Friday 9 - 12pm & 2 - 4.30pm.

VACCsline hours

Monday	10.30am to 4.15pm
Tuesday	9am to 4.15pm
Wednesday	9am to 4.15pm
Thursday	9am to 4 pm
Friday	9.30am to .30 pm

Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service

Part of Oxford Vaccine Group, CCVTM, Churchill Hospital, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LJ, and Thames Valley Health Protection Unit, John Eccles House, Oxford Science Park, Oxford