



Welcome to the spring edition of the VACCSline newsletter

**Increase in MMR enquiries**

A substantial increase in confirmed measles cases has been reported in England and Wales, particularly in the Swansea area of south Wales and North West and North East England. These outbreaks are mostly affecting school age children. Current MMR coverage across the Thames Valley is high, at between 92% to 95.6% for first MMR by 2 years of age and 84% to 91.2% for second MMR by 5 years of age across the old PCT populations. Coverage in some older age groups is lower and may pose a risk for spread in some areas of the Thames Valley. Improving coverage in children aged 5-18 years is our best protection against local outbreaks. Following media attention some people, lacking protection in this age group, may seek vaccination and provide an opportunity to reduce their risk of infection. For information on the Welsh measles outbreak see NHS Wales <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/>

The national immunisation schedule for MMR vaccine remains unchanged. Where an MMR vaccine history is unclear individuals should be immunised; there are no ill effects from re immunising. In fact any pre-existing immunity will inhibit replication of the vaccine virus. An additional MMR catch-up programme was announced on the 25th April. Details and supporting information can be accessed at [click here](#).

The main themes of MMR vaccine enquiries to VACCSline are described here.

**MMR vaccination given outside the routine programme:**

**1. Before 12 months of age.** Infants aged 6 to 12 months can receive a dose of MMR if travelling to a country/area with a high incidence of measles, such as the Swansea area. Individual risk assessment should be made. Two further doses should be given at the routine times of 12 months and 3 years 4 months. At least a one month gap should be left between the dose given under one year and the first routine schedule dose.

**2. Early pre-school booster.** The second dose of MMR vaccine may be administered early as long as the interval between doses is adequate. If the first dose is given over 18 months of age, a gap of at least one month must be left before the second. If given before 18 months of age, a gap of at least three months should be left between the first and second dose. This longer gap is left to optimise the immune response in this age group. Any child over three years of age, presenting for their second MMR may also receive their pre-school booster dose of DTaP/IPV or dTaP/IPV to ensure that this is not missed at a later date and to save an extra visit.

**3. MMR for adults.** There is no upper age limit for receiving MMR vaccine. The online Green Book measles chapter (see link below) states that decisions on vaccinating adults should take into consideration; age, past vaccination history, the likelihood of an individual remaining susceptible and the likelihood of exposure. Details are given of age ranges and the likelihood of either having had measles infection or immunisation. Some adults born before 1970 may be reassured by this information.

There are specific occupational groups who should receive MMR including all health-care workers; in general practice this would include receptionists who may have prolonged contact with patients. [Click here](#) for a CMO letter regarding vaccination of healthcare workers against measles.

MMR may also be indicated for international travel. Vaccine Update May 2011 issue 179 outlines who is entitled to free centrally supplied vaccine; [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110801150214/http://dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_127287.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110801150214/http://dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_127287.pdf)

**4. Combined MMR vaccine after single measles vaccine.** All individuals requiring MMR vaccination should receive two doses of MMR at the appropriate interval for their age regardless of previous immunisation with single antigen vaccines. The single vaccines are not licensed in the UK and therefore quality assurance of their supply chain is lacking.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/MMR-catch-up-programme-2013>

**Essential web based immunisation resources**

Following the launch of Public Health England, essential resources including the Green Book, can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation>



## Organisational changes following launch of Public Health England

- ◆ The Thames Valley Health Protection Unit (TVHPU) has become the Thames Valley Public Health England Centre (TVPHEc). The contact number remains the same 0845 2799879
- ◆ Immunisation enquiries from the Milton Keynes area should now be directed to the duty team at South Midlands and Hertfordshire Public Health England Centre 01462 705327 and no longer to VACCsline as Milton Keynes is no longer in the Thames Valley catchment area.

### Influenza immunisation training for health professionals: would you like to be a trainer for your team or organisation?

This Autumn VACCsline will not be delivering face to face influenza training. Instead we are hosting a free influenza immunisation "Train the Trainer" session and are developing supporting materials. All organisations delivering influenza vaccinations are encouraged to identify trainers to disseminate influenza immunisation training within their own organisations and workplaces.

**On the day:** Training materials will be presented with opportunities for discussion and questions. These materials will then be made available to anyone attending the event.

**Date of training:** Thursday 5th September at the Chilton Training Centre, TVPHEc, Chilton.

**Booking a place:** Please email [sarah.lang@phe.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.lang@phe.gov.uk)

### Oxford Vaccine Group Update: More information available at <http://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/>

Four paediatric vaccine studies are currently running in the Thames Valley. These have been outlined in previous VACCsline newsletters. In summary they are: 6COM which assesses immune responses to MenC when administered with a combined DTaP/IPV/Hib/HebB; PCV10 an alternative booster vaccine against pneumococcal meningitis and ear infections; a second follow-on study of a vaccine against meningitis group B; and the meningococcal C alternating limb trial. Adult vaccine studies involving meningococcal ACWY, RSV and typhoid vaccines are also being conducted.

### Upcoming Introduction to Immunisation Training

Berkshire (E & W)	<b>Introduction to Immunisation Study Day</b> 16th October	Contact: BHFT staff book through intranet <a href="mailto:learningdevelopment@berkshire.nhs.uk">learningdevelopment@berkshire.nhs.uk</a> For queries please call: 0118 960 5213
Buckinghamshire	<b>Introduction to Immunisation Study Day</b> 26th June <b>Immunisation update</b> 19th November	Contact: 01494 734681 <a href="mailto:training.department@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk">training.department@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk</a>
Oxford	<b>Introduction to Immunisation Study Day</b> 17th September	Contact: Kaye Hewer 01865 325496 <a href="mailto:kaye.hewer@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk">kaye.hewer@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk</a>
Milton Keynes	To be confirmed	Contact: South Midlands and Hertfordshire Public Health England Centre 01462 705327
Other providers	<b>Immunisation Update</b> 20th June <b>Introduction to Immunisation Study Day</b> 5th November, High Wycombe, Bucks	Contact: Clinical training limited <a href="http://www.clinicaltrainingltd.co.uk">www.clinicaltrainingltd.co.uk</a>

To receive future VACCsline newsletters by direct email, send your request to [richard.galuszka@phe.gov.uk](mailto:richard.galuszka@phe.gov.uk)

**VACCsline** provides advice on childhood and adult immunisations to health professionals in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. In East Berkshire immunisation enquiries should continue to be directed to the Immunisation Lead, Dr Marilyn Lansley, either on her office number 01753 635542 or mobile 0771 247 1375. Her office number may be given to patients. For advice about adult travel immunisations, practitioners are directed to [www.nathnac.org](http://www.nathnac.org).

VACCsline hours	
Monday	10.30am to 4pm
Tuesday	9am to 4pm
Wednesday	9am to 4pm
Thursday	9am to 4pm
Friday	9am to 1pm

## Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service

Part of Oxford Vaccine Group, CCVTM, Churchill Hospital, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LE, and Thames Valley Public Health England Centre, Public Health England, Chilton, OX11 0RQ .