



### Welcome to the summer edition of the VACCSline newsletter

#### Immunisation programme changes, issues and challenges

Full details of all programmes are at Public Health England's (PHE) immunisation webpages:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation>

#### 1. Keeping up to date with changes

Immunisation programmes are part way through a series of changes and introductions that will continue into the Autumn and 2014. Changes in immunisation programmes are important in extending protection against infectious diseases to wider sections of the population. Furthermore, through continued surveillance of disease programmes match the use of the vaccine to the groups who are most susceptible or vulnerable to disease. Changes to a familiar programme can feel stressful and overwhelming for immunisers with already busy workloads. A common concern expressed is the need for additional training to support these programmes and a lack of time to do so.

Training can take many shapes and forms and isn't just about attending formal education sessions. Public Health England (PHE) has dedicated immunisation webpages (see link above) where immunisers can access a wide range of resources regarding immunisation, including both general and programme specific resources and training slide sets. The rotavirus and meningitis C resources have been available since the end of April, when the programmes were announced. Training and education do have implications on staff time. Employers are responsible for ensuring staff are adequately trained to undertake their work so time for training is essential.

Here are some ideas for keeping up to date with changes and ways in which the workplace can support training:

1. Check regularly for updates at the PHE immunisation webpages and register to have "vaccine update", the national PHE immunisation newsletter emailed to you directly.
2. Nominate an immunisation champion within your workplace who can keep abreast of changes and be responsible for sharing information across the team.
3. Ideas for workplace-based training include sharing immunisation programme letters and discussing within team meetings, self briefing using training slide sets or practising explaining new immunisation programmes and vaccines prior to using them with patients.

#### 2. Record keeping

Accurate documentation is an essential part of immunisation practice. From the enquiries VACCSline has received during the men C schedule changes, it is apparent that not all immunisers are following Department of Health (DH) guidance on documentation. The Online Green Book, Chapter 4, immunisation procedures states what information should be recorded for each vaccination given.

This information should be recorded in all relevant data sources including: GP records, other healthcare provider records, patient held records or personal child health records (Red Book) as well as informing the child health information services for children's immunisations.

Accurate documentation supports practice, for example when reviewing which vaccine a patient has previously received. Time for documentation should be factored into all immunisation clinics.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisation-procedures-the-green-book-chapter-4>

#### 3. Vaccine storage: is your storage suitable for the new volume of vaccines?

Maintenance of the cold chain and appropriate storage of vaccines are essential features of effective immunisation programmes. With the current schedule changes, GP practices will be stocking more vaccines than usual. Practices are encouraged to review their vaccine fridges to ensure they have capacity to store the additional vaccines that are being introduced in the Autumn.

Fridges should also be carefully arranged to avoid confusion between vaccine types that could lead to the wrong vaccine being administered. See over for more information on the children's flu vaccine programme which also highlights vaccine storage as a potential issue. Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protocol-for-ordering-storing-and-handling-vaccines>



## Influenza vaccine programme note

The tripartite (DH, PHE, NHS England) flu immunisation programme 2013/14 letter was published on 5th June 2013. This comprehensive document covers all aspects of the routine influenza programme. Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-programme-2013-to-2014>

Of note, the vaccine of choice for children in clinical risk groups is now the Live Attenuated Intranasal Vaccine (LAIV); Fluenz®. Practices should obtain this vaccine directly from the manufacturer as per the letter. Please note that the flu vaccine programme in children not in clinical risk groups; "well children", will use the same vaccine but be centrally supplied. Practices may wish to consider appropriate storage conditions to differentiate between these stocks.

As Fluenz® is a live vaccine there are specific groups in whom the vaccine is contraindicated. Where the LAIV is contraindicated a non-live flu vaccine should be given instead. Full details can be found in the Online Green Book influenza chapter. Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19>

**NOTE:** Official confirmation of the extension of the influenza programme to children was published on 26th July. PHE link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-flu-immunisation-programme-2013-to-2014>

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

#### A study of new methods to measure the immune response to hepatitis B vaccines

Hepatitis B vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine and therefore is a useful vaccine in which to develop new methods for studying immune responses.

Measuring the immune response to vaccines helps us to understand how they work and whether they are likely to protect any individual against infection. For most vaccines we measure the immune system's production of antibody after a vaccine has been given. However, we want to develop new methods that give a far more detailed picture of the antibody response to vaccines than has previously been possible. Within this study methods are used to investigate the genetic instructions used by each antibody-producing cell to make antibodies. These methods have the potential to give new insights into the way vaccines work and could be applied to studying vaccines and vaccine schedules in the future.

### 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> <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>
Other providers	<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 .