



VACCSline NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009 - ISSUE 12



Welcome to the summer edition of the VACCSline newsletter

Influenza

Preliminary information on vaccination against pandemic H1N1 influenza has been provided and links to key documents regarding both pandemic and seasonal programmes are given below. Health care professionals are encouraged to regularly check the www.immunisation.nhs.uk where further updated resources will be available such as new Green Book chapters.

All about influenza

Seasonal	Swine	Pandemic	Avian
Occurs mostly during the winter months with cases peaking between December and March. Illness is most typically caused by types A & B. Each season two or three strains circulate. Seasonal variations occur due to antigenic drift	Respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza. Human infections can occur following infection with a swine strain.	Epidemic occurring over a wide area and large proportion of the population. Occurs following antigenic shift	Disease of birds with influenza virus. Highly pathogenic strains can cause large scale outbreaks in poultry flocks

Haemagglutinin and neuraminidase	Antigenic drift and shift
<p>Haemagglutinin (H)— main surface antigen, 16 types</p> <p>Neuraminidase (N) - second main surface antigen, 9 types</p> <p>Influenzas A(H3N2), A(H1N1) and influenza B are the current subtypes circulating in humans</p> <p>Influenza A (H1N1), A (H3N2), and influenza B strains are included in each year's influenza vaccine</p>	<p>The virus's surface antigens are unstable and can change causing:</p> <p>Drift— minor changes within the amino acid sequence of H molecules. Persons immune to earlier version of the virus are vulnerable to infection as well as non immune persons. This is why people can contract flu more than once. Annual immunisations aims to provide protection against the current circulating strains each year.</p> <p>Shift—a major change in H and/or N resulting in a virus that is different to circulating viruses. This only occurs in type A influenza. The population are therefore not immune.</p>

Influenza Immunisation

Seasonal Flu programme;

Should run as planned see **CMO letter** published 6 April 2009 available at; http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Professionalletters/Chiefmedicalofficerletters/DH_097550

Pandemic H1N1 (swine flu) vaccination programme;

Professor David Salisbury letter to PCT immunisation leads available at; http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Library/News/H1N1_Swine_Flu_Letter.

Slides from the Department of Health conference for flu leads held on 8 July 2009 are available at;

http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Professional_information/Events/Event/flu_July2009

A chance to win a free place to the 2010 OVG immunisation conference

Here at VACCSline we would like your feedback about the newsletter so we can assess the effectiveness of its distribution and the usefulness of its content. Please spare some time to complete a short questionnaire accessed on line at:

<http://tinyurl.com/lea3kq>

All responses received by 30th September will be entered into a draw to win a free place at the 2010 Oxford Vaccine Group immunisation conference, the winner will be notified by email by 30th October 2009.



Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service
 Call on 0845 279 9878
 or email vaccs.line@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk

Immunisation against infectious diseases (Green Book) chapter updates

Updated Green Book chapters are posted on line and can be found at the following link: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/HealthProtection/Immunisation/Greenbook/DH_4097254

Incomplete immunisations

Between Nov 2008 and April 2009 VACCsline received 776 enquiries. 13.4% (104) of these enquiries were regarding immunisations that were incomplete. Amongst these were the following FAQ;

Question; Some children over the age of 2 years have been called for a PCV vaccine do they need to have it?

Answer; If a child is identified as being in the cohort that should have received a PCV catch up in 2006/7 they can still be given a dose of vaccine now. Individual clinical benefit in receiving PCV vaccine diminishes by the age of 5 years.

Many other enquiries focused on help with planning schedules for children who had not completed their primary immunisations. Previous VACCsline newsletter editions have focused on this and can be accessed at;<http://www.paediatrics.ox.ac.uk/ovg/Vaccsline>

Oxford Vaccine Group Update : Studies about to start

To see how well immune responses last in childhood two follow on studies are being carried out:

Men B: Infants who took part as babies in a study looking at a vaccine to protect against meningococci serotype B are being invited to take part. Infants will be given one or two doses of the Men B vaccine in addition to their routine immunisations due at 12 and 13 months of age.

Men ACWY: 5 year olds who received a conjugate vaccine to meningococci serotype ACWY in a study as infants are being offered a booster dose. In addition a control group is being recruited who will be offered one dose of the Men ACWY conjugate vaccine.

Upcoming Immunisation Training

Oxfordshire	<i>Introduction to Immunisation Study Day</i> 24th Sept for new immunisers <i>Flu & pneumococcal immunisation training</i> 10th Sept aimed at community nursing teams or others providing these immunisations <i>Immunisation Update (half day)</i> 28 Sept An immunisation update for health care professionals working in primary care, schools and health visiting services <i>Improving Immunisation in Primary Care</i> 8th Sep/10th Dec(12-3) Focused workshops	For these three courses contact: Kay Hewer, Training Administrator 01865 336815 or http://nww.oxweb.nhs.uk Marie.mcLoughlin@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk
Buckinghamshire	<i>Introduction to Immunisation</i> 8th October at WGH <i>Flu Updates</i> 8th Sept at WGH & 29th Sept at SMH	Contact: Education, learning & development 01296 310117
Berkshire	Contact Learning and Development for forthcoming immunisation training	Contact: Sarah Manning, Booking Administrator 0118 949 5179

If you would like this newsletter emailed directly to you then please email your request to elly.kilsby@hpa.org.uk

VACCsline provides advice on childhood & adult immunisations to health professionals in Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. In East Berkshire immunisation enquiries should continue to be directed to the Immunisation Co-coordinator for the PCT, Dr. Marilyn Lansley; either on her office number 01344 458109 or her 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

VACCsline hours

Monday	10.30am to 4.15pm
Tuesday	9am to 4.15pm
Wednesday	9am to 4.15pm
Thursday	9am to 4 pm
Friday	9.30 am to 1.30 pm

Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service

Part of Oxford Vaccine Group, CCVTM, Churchill Hospital, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LJ, and John Eccles House, Oxford Science Park Thames Valley Health Protection Unit, Oxford OX4 4GP

All information correct at date of publication 15 July 2009