



Welcome to the Spring and final edition of the VACCSline newsletter

### Achievements of VACCSline

VACCSline was set up in April 2005 as a collaboration between the Oxford Vaccine Group and the Thames Valley Health Protection Unit (formerly part of the Health Protection Agency) which transferred into Public Health England in 2013 and became Thames Valley Public Health Centre (now Public Health England South East). VACCSline was established with an aim to improve the quality and coverage of immunisations available to the population of the Thames Valley by supporting those delivering immunisation with proactive and reactive expert advice, guidance, training, and tools to improve performance.

Between 1 January 2009 and 1 January 2012 the service responded to 4,299 enquires from health professionals, an annual average of 1,433 enquiries and a monthly average of 119 enquiries. The rate of enquiries has increased slightly with a total of 4,462 enquiries received between 1 January 2014 and 1 January 2017, with an annual average of 1,487 enquiries and a monthly average of 124 during this period.

The enquiry volume is influenced by topical vaccine related events such as the start of the seasonal influenza programme, the introduction of a change to the routine immunisation schedule or an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease. For example, in May 2013 during a time of national measles outbreaks, 68 enquires were received relating to MMR vaccine, this accounted for 45% of the total 150 enquiries received during this month. Over a three month period (1 Sep 2015- 30 Nov 2015) at the start of the introduction of the meningococcal B vaccination programme 75 (13%) of enquires related to Men B (total enquires 590). For the same time period, one year into the programme, (1 Sep 2016 -30 Nov 2016) 34 (8%) of enquires related to Men B (total enquires 426).

VACCSline has played a key role in delivering the theoretical content of the Introduction to Immunisation Training across the Thames Valley. In 2015, this course was changed to a two-day interactive event. In 2015 six events were held with 209 delegates attending out of an available 240 places. Funding was secured for a further three events in 2016, 127 delegates have attend out of an available 130 places. These courses have been positively evaluated by delegates. Examples of other training in which VACCSline has been involved, include Train the Trainer Influenza, Pneumococcal and Shingles and Introduction of Men B and Men ACWY vaccination.

Some examples of resources that VACCSline has developed to support immunisers in their clinical practice include a cold chain audit tool and a mock consultation video explaining why paracetamol is routinely recommended for infants receiving Men B vaccine along side other routine infant immunisations. VACCSline's quarterly newsletter has focused on topical issues and the nature of current enquires, highlighting to health professionals key national resources to support them in these areas of their practice. For example the Vaccine Knowledge Project <http://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/> to respond to parental questions about why the UK is still strongly recommending the nasal flu vaccine.

### Provision of immunisation advice from 1 April 2017

VACCSline has always been a shared service by the Oxford Vaccine Group and the Thames Valley Health Protection Team. From the 1 April your enquiries will primarily be taken by the health protection team rather than a separate immunisation advisor. The experienced Health Protection Practitioners, within the acute response centre at Public Health England Chilton (Thames Valley), will continue to respond to health care professionals' enquiries. Email is the best way to contact them, please see second page for contact details. Urgent calls will be triaged through the duty room (acute response centre).

Within East Berkshire immunisation enquiries may continue to also be directed to the Immunisation Lead, Dr Marilyn Lansley, via Marilyn.Lansley@berkshire.nhs.uk or on her office number 01753 635542 or mobile 0771 247 1375. Her office number (not her mobile number) may be given to patients.



## New contact details for immunisation advice

From **Monday 13 March 2017** vaccine and immunisation enquiries that were routinely submitted to VACCsline will need to be submitted to a new contact email and number shown below:

1. Enquiries that were routinely submitted to VACCsline should be directed to email:

**TVHPTimms@phe.gov.uk**

or telephone: **0344 225 3861 (Opt 4, Opt 1)**

Ideally enquiries should be submitted by email, a written response will be provided within 48 hours (Mon-Fri).

Please provide as much detail as possible; however remember do not put any Patient Identifiable Information (PII) in the main body of the email or associated attachments.

Urgent enquiries may be submitted by the telephone and they will be transferred by the Thames Valley Health Protection Team (PHE SE) number above.

The VACCsline number and email address will not be live or checked after the 31 March 2017

2. Enquiries regarding: cold chain incidents, vaccine supply issues, service specifications and eligibility and programme changes should continue to be submitted to the Screening and Immunisation Team at NHSE South Central. Contact details: [england.tvatpublichealth@nhs.net](mailto:england.tvatpublichealth@nhs.net) Tel: 01138248042

3. PGD enquiries should continue to be submitted to [england.southcentral-pgd@nhs.net](mailto:england.southcentral-pgd@nhs.net)

4. Travel Vaccine enquiries should continue to be submitted to NATHNAC: 020 3447 5943 Website Travel Health Pro: <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>

## Key resources to respond to immunisation enquiries

Oxford Vaccine Group **Vaccine Knowledge Project**. This aims to be a source of independent information about vaccines and infectious diseases. It provides clear information on complex topics and back it up with references to high-quality research. Resources to assist health professionals to respond to different types of vaccine enquires are currently being developed <http://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/>

Immunisation Collection on government website, home page for numerous resources: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation>

Online 'Immunisation against infectious disease' known as the Green Book: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>

## Oxford Vaccine Group Update. The Healthy Volunteers' Database

To assist in recruitment to vaccine research trials the Oxford Vaccine Centre keeps databases of volunteers who are interested in taking part in their clinical trials. Once added, participants receive updates of trials currently recruiting volunteers at the Oxford Vaccine Centre.

It is possible for individuals to register their or their child's potential interest in being added to a volunteers' database at the link below:

<http://trials.ovg.ox.ac.uk/trials/subscribe-our-newsletter>

## Introduction to Immunisation Training 2017/18

Dates of four, two-day Introduction to Immunisation Training courses are being confirmed and it is anticipated that they will be advertised by local Community Education Provider Networks. For those involved in adult immunisations only, such as district nurses, two one-day introduction courses are being planned (see below). The theoretical content of all these training events will be delivered as a partnership between the Oxford Vaccine Group, Thames Valley Health Protection Team and Dr Marilyn Lansley.

Adult Immunisations Introductory Training		
<b>Bucks</b>	Monday 26 June 2017	Email: <a href="mailto:Learning.development@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk">Learning.development@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk</a> Phone: 01494 734681
<b>Berkshire</b>	Tuesday 26 September 2017	BHFT staff book through intranet Email: <a href="mailto:learningdevelopment@berkshire.nhs.uk">learningdevelopment@berkshire.nhs.uk</a> Phone: 01344 415729

## Vaccine Advice for Clinicians Service

Part of Public Health England South East Centre, Chilton, OX11 0RQ &  
Oxford Vaccine Group, CCVTM, Churchill Hospital, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LE,