



Vaccine Supply

Good practice when ordering vaccines

Please ensure that when placing orders via ImmForm for all vaccines (except Fluenz Tetra or FluMist Quadrivalent) you include all required products for the next 2-4 weeks in the same order. In particular the shingles vaccine, Zostavax, and the newly introduced vaccines Nimenrix, Menveo and Bexsero, should be requested in the same order as your routine childhood vaccines and not ordered separately. Creating separate orders rather than amending existing orders where possible, increases the picking and packing time at this exceptionally busy period in the year, and can cause delays to deliveries. Orders for routine childhood vaccines, other than influenza vaccines, can be amended until two days prior to dispatch.

Vaccine update – MenACWY vaccine

School Year 11 catch-up – ordering now open

In England, MenACWY vaccines are now available to order through the ImmForm website for the current school year 11 catch up programme.

Ordering for older university entrants (fresher's programme) and the routine adolescent programme (current school year 9 and 10) also remains open.

Further details on the availability of ACWY vaccine for each phase of the programme is below.

When to order MenACWY vaccine

When ordering these vaccines it's important to only order sufficient for your immediate needs. Over-ordering may lead to shortages and potentially deprive others of a supply.

From when is the vaccine expected to be available?	Which school year of pupils is the vaccine for?	Dates of birth of pupils/students who will receive the vaccine (inclusive)	In which academic year will the vaccine start to be given?
GPs should have ordered all required stock.	2014/15 school year 13s	1/9/1996 to 31/8/1997	2014/15
Available now	Older university entrants (freshers' programme)	1/9/1990 to 31/8/1996	2014/15

From when is the vaccine expected to be available?	Which school year of pupils is the vaccine for?	Dates of birth of pupils/students who will receive the vaccine (inclusive)	In which academic year will the vaccine start to be given?
Available now	Routine adolescent programme (school year 9 or 10)	1/9/2000 to 31/8/2002	2015/16
Available now	Current school year 11 catch-up programme	1/9/1999 to 31/8/2000	2015/16
April 2016	Current school year 13	1/9/1997 to 31/8/1998	2015/16
April 2017	Current school year 12s (who will be school year 13 at the time)	1/9/1998 to 31/8/1999	2016/17

MenC vaccines

With ordering now open for MenACWY vaccine for the routine adolescent programme (years 9 and 10), it is possible that providers will have stocks of Men C vaccine (NeisVac-C) remaining. This stock should continue to be held locally and can be used to vaccinate those who require it in line with the Green Book chapter on meningococcal ([see weblink 1](#)). If stock expires, it should be disposed of in line with local policies and recorded on ImmForm as a vaccine wastage incident using the category “MenC vaccine disposed of due to switch to MenACWY”.

Please note that when ordering NeisVac-C on ImmForm for the infant programme, the name has now changed to “MEN C – NeisVac-C”.

Infant paracetamol for the MenB programme

Sachets of infant paracetamol oral suspension (120mg/5ml) in boxes of 12, supplied with measuring devices are currently available to order separately through the ImmForm website. Ordering will only remain open for a few more weeks as communications advising parents on the need to have paracetamol in advance of the vaccination appointment should now be well established.

BCG vaccine availability

BCG vaccine is available to order through ImmForm, please note that the batch currently being distributed has an expiry of 28th February 2016 and should therefore not be stockpiled.

More detailed information about prioritisation and administration of the vaccine can be found in the Vaccine Update special edition published in September ([see weblink 2](#)).

PPD2TU (Mantoux) tests

PHE is currently distributing batch 1619A of tuberculin purified protein derivative (PPD) 2TU (Mantoux test) with an expiry of 31 Jan 2016. Please note the short expiry of this batch and ensure you do not stockpile the PPD2TU so that it can be used in good time prior to expiry.

MMRVaxPro

In order to balance stocks of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccines, MMRVaxPro is currently capped to one order of 4 doses per ImmForm account per week. As an alternative, Priorix is available through ImmForm without restriction. The vaccines are interchangeable in the schedule.

As MMRVaxPro contains porcine gelatine Priorix is the preferred product for individuals who object to porcine content on faith grounds.

Vaccine deliveries over the Christmas and New Year holidays

Due to the Christmas holidays, there will be **no deliveries or order processing** by Movianto UK on:

- Friday 25 December 2015
- Monday 28 December 2015
- Friday 1 January 2016

Please bear in mind when placing orders, deliveries which would fall on these days will instead be made on the next regularly scheduled delivery day, for example if your delivery day is Friday, the cut off for placing an order for vaccine for use over the holiday period is 11:55am on Wednesday 16 December. If you miss this date, the next Friday delivery will not be until Friday 8 January.

Please see the table below for revised order cut off and delivery dates. The normal ordering and delivery cycle resumes on Monday 4 January.

You are reminded to be prepared for the break in deliveries and to order accordingly. Please make sure you have sufficient room in your fridge for any additional vaccine you wish to stock over this holiday period, bearing in mind the recommendation that only two to four weeks of vaccine stock be held at any one time.

Christmas Bank holidays		
Delivery date	Order cut-off date	Order cut-off time
Monday 21 December	Thursday 17 December	11:55 AM
Tuesday 22 December	Friday 18 December	11:55 AM
Wednesday 23 December	Monday 21 December	11:55 AM
Thursday 24 December	Tuesday 22 December	11:55 AM
Friday 25 December	CLOSED – NO DELIVERIES	
Monday 28 December	CLOSED – NO DELIVERIES	
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 23 December	11:55 AM
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 24 December	11:55 AM
Thursday 31 December	Tuesday 29 December	11:55 AM
Friday 1 January	CLOSED – NO DELIVERIES	
Monday 4 January	Wednesday 30 December	11:55 AM
Tuesday 5 January	Thursday 31 December	11:55 AM
Wednesday 6 January	Monday 4 January	11:55 AM
Thursday 7 January	Tuesday 5 January	11:55 AM
Friday 8 January	Wednesday 6 January	11:55 AM

Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) for the UK childhood flu programme

Background

Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) has been used in the UK since 2013 to protect children against infection with influenza. The vaccine is the preferred product for children in flu “at-risk” groups aged from 2 to 17 years (inclusive) and used as part of the routine children’s programme delivered in schools and general practices.

The vaccine was chosen for children because of its good safety profile, superior performance compared with inactivated flu vaccines and ease of administration. LAIV is manufactured by AstraZeneca/Medimmune and has been sold in many countries for over 10 years. Only one LAIV vaccine is available, marketed as Fluenz Tetra® for the UK and EU market, and FluMist® Quadrivalent for the US market. Fluenz Tetra® and FluMist® Quadrivalent are the same product but in different packaging.

Stocks of FluMist® Quadrivalent are being provided as well as Fluenz Tetra® this season

In agreement with the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), AstraZeneca is supplying two batches of the US labelled FluMist® Quadrivalent to the UK market in addition to the usual UK labelled Fluenz Tetra® stock. FluMist® Quadrivalent is fully licensed for use in the UK (in accordance with the Fluenz Tetra® licence). This action has been taken due to a shortage of Fluenz Tetra® supply to meet the timelines for the 2015/2016 vaccination programme in the UK. There will be sufficient FluMist® Quadrivalent stock to fulfil the requirements of the vaccination programme.

An explanatory letter from AstraZeneca is available from [weblink 3](#).

Fluenz Tetra® and FluMist® Quadrivalent are pharmaceutically identical live attenuated influenza vaccines (LAIV) and are therefore interchangeable. Some differences exist between the packaging of Fluenz Tetra® and FluMist® Quadrivalent. In addition, there are differences between the US Prescribing Information (USPI) and the UK Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) and Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC). In agreement with the MHRA, all FluMist® Quadrivalent packs will be therefore supplied with a UK Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) for Fluenz Tetra®, the USPI should not be used. The Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) and PIL are also available electronically at [weblink 4](#).

As these are the same vaccine, both are indicated for the prophylaxis of influenza in children and adolescents from 24 months to less than 18 years of age. In the US LAIV is licensed up to the age of 49 years. In the UK LAIV is only licensed for those aged from 24 months to less than 18 years of age.

Children already consented to receive Fluenz Tetra® do not need to be re-consented to receive FluMist® Quadrivalent

Expiry date

To ensure timely supply, changes in the supply schedule were required. This has resulted in a mismatch between the actual expiry date and that printed on the packaging and labelling. The two batches of FluMist® Quadrivalent being supplied (FL2113 & FL2118) must not be used after the 24th February 2016. **This does not affect the safety, quality or efficacy of the batches.**

In agreement with the MHRA, a pre-planned withdrawal of any unused stock of FluMist® Quadrivalent will begin on the 25th January 2016. This will help ensure that no time-expired vaccine remains in circulation. AstraZeneca's logistics provider, Movianto, will contact you to arrange collection. Please quarantine any unused FluMist® Quadrivalent ahead of the 24th February 2016. This should avoid accidental administration prior to collection.

Batches of UK labelled Fluenz Tetra® will not be subject to the withdrawal and may be used up to the expiry date stated on the carton and nasal applicator.

FluMist® Quadrivalent availability and ordering

Distribution of FluMist® Quadrivalent from central stock has now commenced.

FluMist® Quadrivalent can be ordered in exactly the same way as Fluenz Tetra® using the Immform website. You will not be able to choose between the two vaccines and only one option will be available at any one time.

The National PGD

The initial template PGD written and clinically approved by PHE mentioned only Fluenz Tetra® by name. Therefore the PGD has been amended to a live attenuated influenza vaccine PGD which mentions both Fluenz Tetra® and FluMist® Quadrivalent by name, and is available from [weblink 6](#). However immunisers should be aware that this document is a template only.

Before this PGD can be lawfully used, it must be authorised by NHS England and then signed by the individual user and their authorising manager.

Administration of FluMist® Quadrivalent

FluMist® Quadrivalent should be administered in exactly the same way as Fluenz Tetra®. A training slide set for influenza immunisation is available via [weblink 7](#).

Recording use of FluMist® Quadrivalent on the clinical system

Where a child has been vaccinated using Fluenz Tetra® vaccine there is no change to the coding requirements. There is no specific Read code for FluMist® Quadrivalent, but this vaccine can be recorded using the usual approach on the GP system (either "Influenza vaccine (Live attenuated)" or "Fluenz Tetra®").

As with all vaccines, it is very important to record the batch number and expiry date.

For information on cold chain failures for LAIV please see [weblink 5](#).

Vaccine uptake monitoring and reporting

Provided the use of FluMist® Quadrivalent is recorded as set out above, vaccine uptake reporting to child health records departments and/or PHE will be unaffected.

2014/15 shingles vaccine coverage figures published

In the second full year of the shingles vaccination programme, overall coverage in England for the year 2014-15 (September 2014 to August 2015) was 59.0% for the routine 70-year-old cohort (compared to 61.8% at the same point for 2013-14), was 57.8% for the 78-year-old catch-up cohort (no comparative data for 2013-14), and was 58.5% for the 79-year-old catch-up cohort (compared to 59.6% at the same point in 2013-14). The report can be viewed at [weblink 8](#).

Pre-natal pertussis vaccine uptake remains high in pregnant women

The latest figures show that monthly pre-natal pertussis vaccine coverage in pregnant women during the six-month period April to September 2015 is higher than the same period in previous years of the programme (Figure 1). Between April and September 2015, monthly vaccine coverage ranged from 55.1% to 57.7%. It is expected that during this year's flu campaign, pre-natal pertussis coverage will increase as it has in previous years. This is thought to be due to GP practices actively calling and re-calling eligible patients, including pregnant women, for the flu vaccine and offering those at the appropriate stage in their pregnancy (between 28 and 38 weeks gestation) a pertussis-containing vaccine at the same time.



Figure 1: Prenatal pertussis vaccine coverage in England, January to December 2013 and 2014, with January to September 2015 data for comparison

The latest report can be viewed at [weblink 9](#).

Web links

- web link 1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningococcal-the-green-book-chapter-22>
- web link 2 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461653/PHE__9494_VU_233_Sept_2015_special_BGC_11_web.pdf
- web link 3 <http://www.fluenztetra.co.uk/>
- web link 4 <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/29112>
- web link 5 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/live-attenuated-influenza-vaccine-responding-to-cold-chain-failures>
- web link 6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-patient-group-direction-pgd>
- web link 7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-programme-training-slide-set-for-healthcare-professionals>
- web link 8 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/herpes-zoster-shingles-immunisation-programme-2014-to-2015-evaluation-report>
- web link 9 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-immunisation-in-pregnancy-vaccine-coverage-estimates-in-england-october-2013-to-march-2014>