

**STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!**

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## **Immunisation rates in the UK continue upward trend**

The Health Protection Agency has published the vaccination coverage statistics in children aged up to five years for October to December 2012 – see [web link 8](#).

## **The new childhood vaccines programme – and one for older people too**

Given the impending European Immunization Week (see below), it seems appropriate that, not only should this be the two hundredth issue of *Vaccine Update*, but that here in the UK we are working to extend the routine immunisation programme to protect yet more people against disease.

We are planning to introduce two new vaccines – rotavirus to protect babies against vomiting and diarrhoea, and flu nasal spray to protect older healthy children – and rescheduling another – MenC – to extend protection later into life. And, at the other end of the age spectrum, we are planning to introduce a vaccine to protect older people against shingles.

Full details will be provided in a series of ‘Tripartite Public Health’ official letters, formerly CMO letters, introducing each programme, that will be sent out over the coming months from the Department of Health, Public Health England and the NHS Commissioning Board.

## **How vaccines work**

With all these new vaccines being introduced, it’s worth reminding ourselves why we vaccinate children and adults so that we can persuade new and perhaps sceptical parents of the benefits of vaccination. The short video clips on the NHS Choices website can be shown to parents so they can see for themselves how vaccines work and the protection they offer to themselves and their children (see [web link 1](#))

## Immunisation news

### European Immunization Week, 22 to 27 April 2013



As previewed in last month's *Vaccine Update*, this year sees the launch of the eighth European Immunization Week (EIW) organised by the European Region of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Last year, for the first time, not only did all 53 member states of the WHO European Region participate in the week but it also took place as part of the World Immunization Week (WIW) in which all regions held simultaneous immunisation awareness weeks. The general theme of WIW is to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease under the banner 'Protect your world – get vaccinated'.

This year's EIW will focus on tackling complacency among healthcare workers and policy makers by giving a voice to those whose lives have been adversely affected by vaccine-preventable diseases, emphasising the risks and implications associated with those diseases. For more information see [web link 2](#).

### New vaccines on the horizon?

In March and April each year, horizon scanning is undertaken to help inform the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and contribute to future planning and work of the committee. JCVI is particularly interested in the development of vaccines that are likely to be licensed within the next five years. See [web link 3](#) for more information and the report form that will need to be submitted.

### National Travel Health Network and Centre advice line change in opening hours

As of the 10 April 2013, the opening hours of the NaTHNaC telephone line for health professionals with queries about complex travellers are changing to:

Monday to Friday  
08.30 – 11.45  
13.00 – 15.15

This change is in response to feedback from callers and a NaTHNaC review of the service. It is hoped that by providing a service from 8.30 and between 13.00 and 14.00 these hours will be more convenient for callers.

NaTHNaC answers more than 9000 complex travel health queries annually. There is only one specialist nurse advisor to answer calls each day. NaTHNaC recognises that many callers have difficulty accessing the service and would appreciate feedback after the 10 April about the change of service hours and the service provided via the NaTHNaC website survey available at [web link 4](#).

## Whooping cough and pregnancy vaccination programme to continue

In the light of recent advice from JCVI, the NHS Commissioning Board will continue commissioning the pertussis immunisation programme for pregnant women in 2013/14 until further notice, with collection of data to support assessment of vaccine coverage. An announcement about the continuation of the temporary programme and the accompanying data collection will be made in the next few weeks in a letter to NHS organisations from the Department of Health, the NHS Commissioning Board and Public Health England.

## Operating model for Child Health Information Services published

The NHS Commissioning Board recently published a description of the operating model for Child Health Information Services. The purpose of the operating model is to ensure the safe transfer of commissioning responsibilities from Primary Care Trusts to make certain that all existing information systems and associated support for child health information, including the Personal Child Health Record ('Red Book'), continue to exchange data with partners and share information with parents and carers. See [web link 12](#).

## Updates to JCVI webpages

Updates to JCVI webpages are affected by the transition to GOV.UK. Once the transition has been completed, updates will resume.

## Catnip causes consternation

NathNac has reported that on 1 March 2013, a further case of animal rabies was reported in Greece by the World Organization for Animal Health. The case occurred in a domestic cat which bit its owners in the Trikala prefecture (see [web link 5](#) for the full story).

# Resources

## Green Book Chapter 3 Storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines

This chapter has largely been rewritten and so no update patch will be issued. It is available at [web link 6](#).

## Vaccine supply

### Movianto UK deliveries for the May Bank holidays

Due to the May Bank holidays, there will be **no deliveries or order processing** by Movianto UK on: Monday **6 May** and Monday **27 May**.

Please see the table below for revised order and delivery dates.

Customers whose scheduled delivery day falls on a Bank holiday 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. Orders can still be placed on ImmForm on all days, but on Bank holidays they will not be processed by Movianto UK for dispatch at their warehouse, hence the revised order cut off day.

We recommend you have two to four weeks of vaccine stock held in your fridge, so you may wish to bear this in mind when ordering for the holiday period. We also recommend that you have at least two contacts registered on ImmForm, as cover for leave etc. To register please see the ImmForm helpsheet on how to register at [web link 7](#).

### May Bank holidays orders and deliveries

Delivery date	Order cut off date	Order cut off time
<b>Early May Bank holiday</b>		
Monday 29/04/2013	Thursday 25/04/2013	11:55 am
Tuesday 30/04/2013	Friday 26/04/2013	11:55 am
Wednesday 01/05/2013	Monday 29/04/2013	11:55 am
Thursday 02/05/2013	Tuesday 30/04/2013	11:55 am
Friday 03/05/2013	Wednesday 01/05/2013	11:55 am
<b>Monday 06/05/2013</b>	<b>Closed – NO DELIVERIES</b>	
Tuesday 07/05/2013	<b>Thursday 02/05/2013</b>	11:55 am
Wednesday 08/05/2013	Friday 03/05/2013	11:55 am
Thursday 09/05/2013	Tuesday 07/05/2013	11:55 am
Friday 10/05/2013	Wednesday 08/05/2013	11:55 am
<b>Late May Bank holiday</b>		
Monday 20/05/2013	Thursday 16/05/2013	11:55 am

Tuesday 21/05/2013	Friday 17/05/2013	11:55 am
Wednesday 22/05/2013	Monday 20/05/2013	11:55 am
Thursday 23/05/2013	Tuesday 21/05/2013	11:55 am
Friday 24/05/2013	Wednesday 22/05/2013	11:55 am
<b>Monday 27/05/2013</b>	<b>Closed – NO DELIVERIES</b>	
Tuesday 28/05/2013	<b>Thursday 23/05/2013</b>	11:55 am
Wednesday 29/05/2013	Friday 24/05/2013	11:55 am
Thursday 30/05/2013	Tuesday 28/05/2013	11:55 am
Friday 31/05/2013	Wednesday 29/05/2013	11:55 am

Here's an example of how deliveries are affected by the Bank holidays: if your normal delivery day is a Monday, the cut off for placing an order for a delivery for use around the May Bank holiday is 11:55am on Thursday 25 April for delivery on Monday 29 April. If you miss this date, the next Monday delivery will be Monday 13 May. The normal delivery and ordering cycle resumes on Tuesday 7 May.

Out of schedule deliveries cannot be made for failure to place orders in good time.

## Farewell... and Welcome

### The last *Vaccine Update* from the Department of Health

This, the two hundredth issue of *Vaccine Update*, is the last to be published by the Immunisation branch at the Department of Health.

So it's good-bye from the staff of the Immunisation branch in the Health Protection and Emergency Response Division of the Public Health Directorate at the Department of Health...

...and it's hello (wait for it!) from the immunisation staff moving to Public Health England in the Immunisation Operations bit (and others) of the Immunisation and Countermeasures Response Implementation department and the immunisation scientists in the Immunisation, Hepatitis and Blood Safety departments of the National Infectious Disease Surveillance and Control Directorate of Public Health England; and those immunisation staff remaining in the DH in the new Health Protection System and Immunisation branch of the Health Protection and Emergency Response Division within the Public Health Directorate of the Department of Health.

But don't worry, we hope you won't notice any difference in the service.

## All change from 1 April 2013

The *Green Book* and *Vaccine Update* will be provided by Public Health England (PHE) from 1 April 2013.

This means that the next issue of this newsletter will be sent from PHE. PHE will only use your contact details to send you this newsletter and will look after the privacy of your data – it will not be used for any other purpose or passed on to anyone else. However, if you do not wish to continue receiving this letter, please unsubscribe by e-mailing [vaccineupdate@phe.gov.uk](mailto:vaccineupdate@phe.gov.uk). If you wish to enquire about vaccine ordering or delivery issues please e-mail [vaccinesupply@phe.gov.uk](mailto:vaccinesupply@phe.gov.uk).

Links from the Department of Health website will automatically redirect you to the new places where our information is published.

The Green Book can now be found at [web link 9](#).

The ImmForm website remains at [web link 10](#) with helpsheets published at [web link 11](#).

## Web links

- Web link 1** <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/How-vaccines-work.aspx>
- Web link 2** <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/disease-prevention/vaccines-and-immunization/european-immunization-week/european-immunization-week-2013>
- Web link 3** <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/new-vacs-on-horizon/>
- Web link 4** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7Q3TDTQ>
- Web link 5** [http://www.nathnac.org/travel/news/rabies\\_070313.htm](http://www.nathnac.org/travel/news/rabies_070313.htm)
- Web link 6** <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/category/the-green-book/>
- Web link 7** <https://vaccinesupply.immform.dh.gov.uk/Registration/Registration.aspx>
- Web link 8** <http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/infections/immunisation.htm#coverQ4>
- Web link 9** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>
- Web link 10** <https://www.immform.dh.gov.uk/>
- Web link 11** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immform>
- Web link 12** <http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/blog/2013/03/22/child-health-it/>

## Register now – feedback – contact us

To receive a copy of *Vaccine Update* emailed direct to you each month, to provide any comments or suggestions, or if you have a query about any aspect of vaccine supply, please email us at [vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:vaccine.supply@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

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