



Have you heard? MMR vaccination rates rise out of the valleys to conquer the WHO peaks

The latest COVER data show that the uptake of MMR vaccine in two-year-olds has reached 95% in all three devolved authorities and in the North West region of England. For the first time, national MMR coverage in Wales for children reaching two years of age has exceeded the WHO target of 95%. For full details see [web link 1](#).

Immunisation news

Shingles vaccination programme announced

Comprehensive information on this new vaccination programme is available at [web link 2](#). It includes the tripartite letter, training materials for health professionals, the Green Book chapter and the patient information leaflet (see Resources and Vaccine supply below).

Flu plan winter 2013/14

The third *Flu plan* has been published and can be downloaded from [web link 3](#). Previously issued by the Department of Health, this year it has been published jointly on behalf of DH, NHS England, and Public Health England. The plan has been updated to reflect the new responsibilities for the delivery of public health services. It outlines the respective responsibilities of all partners for planning for the demands of flu across England for the 2013/14 winter.

Extension of the flu immunisation programme to children

The second of two letters about the flu immunisation programme for the 2013/14 winter was published on Friday 26 July (see [web link 13](#)). The letter provides additional information about the extension of the 2013/14 flu immunisation programme to children which involves the routine immunisation of all two- and three-year-olds and, in certain geographical areas, the immunisation of pre- and primary-school children.

Flu vaccine uptake up but still room for improvement

These two Public Health England (PHE) annual survey reports present the flu vaccine uptake in GP patients, including pregnant women, and healthcare workers for winter 2012/2013 (see [web link 10](#) and [web link 11](#)) in England. The reports provide the end-of-season uptake of the 2012/13 flu vaccine for different age and clinical risk groups of GP patients and different staff groups of frontline healthcare workers.

The reports will help those planning local vaccination campaigns for the forthcoming flu season and assist their efforts to improve flu vaccine uptake. They reveal that:

- nearly nine million people aged 65 years and over were vaccinated against flu last year reaching an uptake level of 73.4 per cent, close to the World Health Organization target of 75 per cent for people aged 65 years and over
- nearly half a million healthcare workers were vaccinated last year – an increase of nearly 10,000 on the previous year, with some trusts reaching uptake of over 80%.

However, despite these impressive figures, 48.7% of those under 65 years of age in a clinical risk group and 54.4% of HCW remain unvaccinated. We are thus still some way short of the Chief Medical Officer's aspirational levels of vaccination for the most vulnerable clinical groups and frontline healthcare workers. Public Health England will continue working with health and social care staff to improve uptake in all these groups.

Pertussis vaccination for pregnant women to continue

The Department of Health, Public Health England and NHS England have written to a wide range of health professionals advising them that the pertussis vaccination programme for pregnant women should continue in 2013/14 until further notice (see [web link 4](#)).

Professor David Salisbury, Director of Immunisation at the Department of Health has also written pointing out that the programme to date has been very successful in terms of uptake, efficacy and safety, and, as the time is approaching when pertussis cases start to increase, it's important that pregnant women in weeks 28 to 38 of their pregnancy continue to be invited to have the vaccination (see [web link 5](#)).

Confirmation of eligibility for rotavirus vaccine

Some parents whose babies fall outside the policy age range but within the clinical age range for the vaccine have been requesting the rotavirus vaccination. The policy age range was set to vaccinate the optimum number of babies given the availability of the vaccine and without putting undue pressure on the NHS delivery services.

We recognise that some parents will be disappointed by this but we have to use NHS resources for children who have the greatest ability to benefit from protection against rotavirus. Changing the policy now would leave some parents, whose babies are now too old, understandably aggrieved that the vaccine was not available to them earlier in the month.

GPs may still provide the vaccine, on clinical grounds, to babies aged under 15 weeks of age but outside the eligible range but this would not be as part of the NHS programme.

Resources

The new edition of the ‘Babies’ leaflet should be available by the time this issue of *Vaccine Update* is published. It includes information on the rotavirus vaccination that was introduced on the first of the month and features the latest version of the schedule. If you have copies of the ‘old’ edition, we suggest you still send them out but accompany them with copies of the rotavirus flyer so they are not wasted.

Updated editions of the other ‘core’ leaflets will follow.



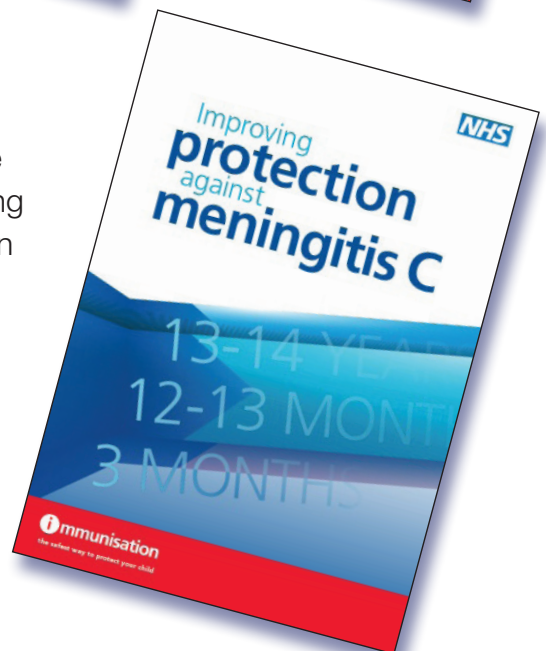
The complete routine immunisation schedule 2013/14

Updated to include all the recent vaccine introductions and re-scheduling, this chart now features the immunisations for all those at risk. It’s available as a downloadable pdf at [web link 6](#)



Improving protection against meningitis C

Available as a pdf at [web link 7](#), this leaflet describes the re-scheduling of the menC vaccinations, with the stopping of the injection at four months of age and the introduction of a second booster dose at 13 to 14 years. Printed copies will be available in the near future from the Publications Orderline at [web link 8](#).



Protecting against shingles

Accessible as a pdf at [web link 9](#), along with detailed information about the whole vaccination programme, printed copies of this leaflet will be available in the next few weeks from [web link 8](#).

Who's eligible for the shingles vaccine?

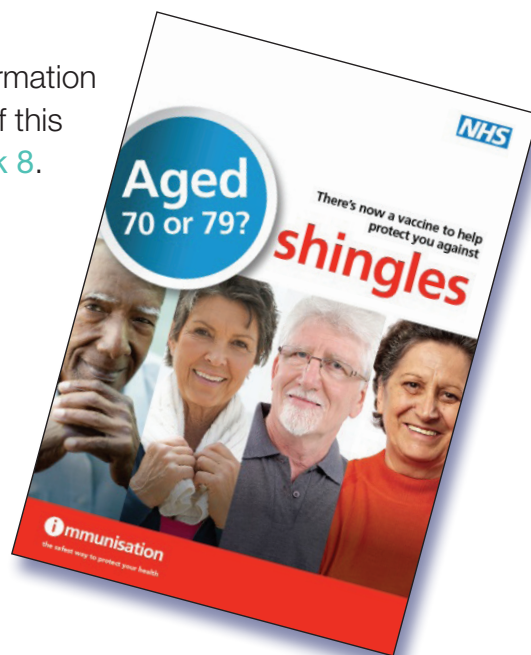
The birth ranges GPs need to invite for the shingles vaccinations starting on 1 September 2013 are:

Routine cohort:

Registered patients born between 02/09/1942-01/09/1943 inclusive (i.e. aged 70)

Catch-up cohort:

Registered patients born on and between 02/09/1933-01/09/1934 inclusive (i.e. aged 79)



Protocol for ordering, storing and handling vaccines

This publication that outlines how to manage vaccines so that immunisations are carried safely and efficiently is now available as a link from [web link 15](#)

Want to contact Public Health England?

Enquiries should be addressed to:

Public information access office
Public Health England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

Email: enquiries@phe.gov.uk

Main switchboard 020 7654 8000

Vaccine supply

Men C vaccines

Currently both Meningitec and Neisvac-C are available to order for the childhood programme.

In infants, Meningitec should only be used as a second dose for those who received Meningitec at three months of age prior to 1 June 2013. All other infants should receive NeisVac-C or any remaining stock of Menjugate as the single Men C dose at three months.

Meningitec can also be ordered for the adolescent dose for the academic year 2013/14.

Please contact the ImmForm Helpdesk on 0844 376 0040 if you are unsure which vaccine to order.

For further information please see, MenC vaccination schedule: planned changes from June 2013 at [web link 14](#).

Shingles vaccine

Zostavax will be available to order on ImmForm from the 1 August.

Hepatyrix[®] - hepatitis A and typhoid vaccine

The following information regarding the availability in the UK of Hepatyrix[®] has been supplied by GSK.

GSK is now out of stock of Hepatyrix. It is anticipated that Hepatyrix[®] will be available from Q4 2014. This supply constraint is due to the establishment and accreditation of a new manufacturing facility and is not related to either a quality or safety issue with the vaccines.

For further information please phone GSK's customer contact team on 0808 100 9997.

Vivotif[®]

Janssen Vaccine currently has limited stock of their oral typhoid vaccine, Vivotif.

Typhim Vi[®]

Sanofi Pasteur MSD has limited stock of their typhoid vaccine, Typhim Vi[®]. They are unable to accept new orders at this time and will provide an update as soon as further information is available.

August Bank Holiday - impact on vaccine deliveries

Due to the August Bank Holiday, there will be no deliveries or order processing by Movianto UK on Monday 26 August. 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 that you have two to four weeks of vaccine stock held in your fridge, so you may wish to consider this 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 8 on how to register at [web link 12](#).

Delivery date	Order cut-off date	Order cut-off time
Monday, 19/08	Thursday, 15/08	11:55 am
Tuesday, 20/08	Friday, 16/08	11:55 am
Wednesday, 21/08	Monday, 19/08	11:55 am
Thursday, 22/08	Tuesday, 20/08	11:55 am
Friday, 23/08	Wednesday, 21/08	11:55 am
Monday, 26/08	Closed - No deliveries	
Tuesday, 27/08	Thursday, 22/08	11:55 am
Wednesday, 28/08	Friday, 23/08	11:55 am
Thursday, 29/08	Tuesday, 27/08	11:55 am
Friday, 30/08	Wednesday, 28/08	11:55 am

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 August Bank Holiday is 11:55 on Thursday 15 August for delivery on Monday 19 August. If you miss this date, the next Monday delivery will be Monday 2 September. The normal delivery and ordering cycle resumes on Tuesday 27 August.

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

Web links

- web link 1** www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/archives/2013/hpr2613_cover.pdf
- web link 2** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/shingles-vaccination-programme>
- web link 3** www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-plan-winter-2013-to-2014
- web link 4** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whooping-cough-vaccination-programme-for-pregnant-women-extension-to-2014>
- web link 5** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/whooping-cough-cases-continue-to-fall>
- web link 6** www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule-201314
- web link 7** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-protection-against-meningitis-c-leaflet>
- web link 8** http://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/home.jsf
- web link 9** www.gov.uk/government/publications/shingles-vaccination-for-adults-aged-70-or-79-years-of-age-a5-leaflet
- web link 10** https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/207134/Influenza_vaccine_uptake_amongst_GP_patient_groups_in_England_for_winter_season_2012_2013.pdf
- web link 11** https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/207556/Seasonal_Influenza_Vaccine_Uptake_HCWs_2012_13_web.pdf
- web link 12** www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immform
- web link 13** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-flu-immunisation-programme-2013-to-2014>
- web link 14** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/menc-vaccination-schedule-planned-changes-from-june-2013>
- web link 15** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protocol-for-ordering-storing-and-handling-vaccines>

Vaccine update subscriptions: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHPA/subscribers/new?preferences=true>