



## Are you ready to run with rotavirus?

### Vaccination programme starts on 1 July

There are now only a few days until rotavirus vaccination will become part of the routine childhood schedule. From 1 July rotavirus vaccination should be offered to all babies when they present for their routine vaccinations given at two months and subsequently at three months of age. The full course of vaccination is two doses of Rotarix<sup>®</sup> vaccine given four weeks apart. Only those babies born on or after 1 May 2013 should be offered the rotavirus vaccine for the purposes of introducing this new vaccination into the routine childhood schedule.

NB. Rotarix<sup>®</sup> vaccine should not be given to an infant who is more than 24 weeks of age.

Rotarix<sup>®</sup> vaccine can now be ordered online via the ImmForm website at [web link 1](#). **GP practices are reminded that they should ensure they have ordered sufficient stocks of Rotarix<sup>®</sup> to offer the vaccine from 1 July.**

Rotarix<sup>®</sup> is given orally. Full guidance on the administration technique is included in the new rotavirus chapter of the Green Book, see [web link 2](#). A comprehensive set of guidance, training materials, leaflets and factsheets can be viewed at [web link 3](#).

### Recruitment of a chair and members of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)

The Department of Health is seeking to appoint a chair and seven members to JCVI. The committee provides independent expert advice to UK health departments.

The chair will be an outstanding individual with a first-class reputation, able to command the confidence of the public, healthcare professionals, the academic community, the pharmaceutical industry and ministers.

The member roles sought are:

- infectious disease epidemiologist
- general practitioner
- health economist
- public health specialist, and
- bacteriologist
- lay representative
- infectious disease clinician

For more information about the roles, see [web link 4](#)

For more information about JCVI, see [web link 5](#)

The closing date for applications is midday on 27 June 2013.

## Immunisation news

### First annual flu letter issued

On 5 June, the annual flu letter was issued on behalf of the Department of Health, NHS England, and Public Health England. A copy of the letter can be found at [web link 6](#). The seasonal flu plan for 2013/14 will follow shortly. The annual flu letter is the first of two letters about the flu immunisation programme for the 2013/14 winter and relates to planning for the existing flu programme. A second letter will follow with details about the extension of the flu immunisation programme to children in 2013.

NB Please see Vaccine supply section for recent change to the availability of vaccines from MASTA.

### The new MenC schedule – a reminder

We have received some requests for clarification about the new schedule, which came into effect from 1 June 2013. Under the new schedule, only one rather than two doses of MenC vaccine is required in infancy (at three months of age), this is followed by the Hib/MenC first booster (at 12 to 13 months of age), and a new second booster for adolescents (at 13 to 14 years of age, starting in the academic year 2013/14). Further information on the adolescent booster will be provided nearer the date.

From 1 June

- infants at three months of age:
  - preferably use Menjugate Kit® or alternatively NeisVac-C®
  - do not use Meningitec®
- infants at four months of age:
  - if the infant received Meningitec® at three months of age, give Menjugate Kit® or Meningitec® as a second dose at four months of age
  - if the infant received NeisVac-C® or Menjugate Kit® at three months of age, there is no need for a second dose of any MenC vaccine at four months of age.

If surgeries still have supplies of Meningitec® in their fridges, as noted above, they can be used as a second dose at four months of age but only if the infant received Meningitec® at three months. If there are still stocks remaining, they can be retained for use in the adolescent booster programme.

For more information see the meningococcal tripartite letter at [web link 7](#).

## ABPI Vaccine Group formed

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) has formed a new Vaccine Group which aims to work in partnership with the public health community to support the continued development and implementation of successful UK immunisation programmes. The UK Vaccine Industry Group (UVIG), which has represented the industry for over a decade, has now disbanded. All of the UVIG members have joined the ABPI Vaccine Group with the exception of Sanofi Pasteur MSD, which is not a member of the ABPI.

For more information on the ABPI Vaccine Group please email [vaccinegroup@abpi.org.uk](mailto:vaccinegroup@abpi.org.uk).

Sanofi Pasteur MSD can be contacted at [medinfo@spmsd.com](mailto:medinfo@spmsd.com)

## Resources

### Changes to the routine childhood immunisation schedule

June sees the first of the recently announced changes to the immunisation schedule – the stopping of the MenC vaccination at four months of age ([see web link 8](#)). This will be followed by the introduction of the rotavirus vaccination for two-month-old babies in July ([see web link 9](#)) which, in turn, will be followed in September by the flu vaccination for two- and three-year-olds.

At the same time, pilot studies, looking at the most acceptable and practical way of vaccinating all children aged 3 to 16 against flu in the space of a couple of months, will start running in several geographic areas around the country.

These changes to the schedule will be reflected in the various publications as they are reprinted by Public Health England over the coming months although it's inevitable that many copies showing the 'old' schedule will still be circulating for some time to come.

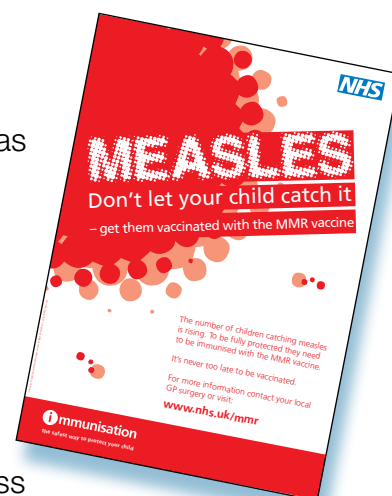
The current schedule, as of 1 June, is available as a pdf only, at [web link 10](#).

### MMR catch-up campaign

In addition to the flyers, the revised measles poster is now available as a pdf at [web link 11](#) and printed copies are available from Prolog at [web link 12](#).

### Vaccine update update

You can update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your Subscriber Preferences Page. You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact [support@govdelivery.com](mailto:support@govdelivery.com).



# Vaccine supply

## Seasonal influenza vaccine 2013/14

With regards to the influenza immunisation programme 2013/14 joint letter dated 5 June 2013, please see the table below showing the revised flu vaccines available from MASTA. This replaces the information for MASTA in the table provided on page 20 of the letter at [web link 6](#).

Supplier	Name of product	Vaccine type	Age indications	Contact details
MASTA	Imuvac®	Surface antigen, inactivated	From 6 months	0113 238 7552
	Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP	Split virion, inactivated virus	From 6 months	
	Fluarix®	Split virion inactivated virus	From 6 months	

## Rotavirus vaccine

As described above, the rotavirus vaccination programme starts on 1 July. The vaccine is available to order on ImmForm now but vaccination should not start until 1 July.

## Rabies vaccine

Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostic currently have a limited stock of Rabipur. They expect to be back in supply by early June and will be taking back orders from customers offering a delivery date of week ending 7 June.

They have reserved doses to cover any June orders and a small emergency supply.

They are aware that some wholesalers have stock and will be advising customers to contact them.

## Typhim Vi®

Sanofi Pasteur MSD has limited stock of their typhoid vaccine, Typhim Vi®. To ensure as much coverage as possible with the current stock, the number of doses per customer is being restricted until further notice.

## Movianto UK deliveries for the Bank Holiday Monday 26 August

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 on the next page 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 13](#).

## August Bank Holiday orders and deliveries

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
<b>Monday, 26/08</b>	<b>Closed - No deliveries</b>	
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 27th August.

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

## Web links

**Web link 1** [www.immform.dh.gov.uk](http://www.immform.dh.gov.uk)

**Web link 2** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rotavirus-the-green-book-chapter-27b>

**Web link 3** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/rotavirus-vaccination-programme-for-infants>

**Web link 4** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/current-vacancies-at-the-joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation>

**Web link 5** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policy-advisory-groups/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation>

**Web link 6** [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation)

**Web link 7** [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/197618/MenC\\_letter\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/197618/MenC_letter_FINAL.pdf)

**Web link 8** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/meningococcal-c-menc-vaccination-programme>

**Web link 9** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/rotavirus-vaccination-programme-for-infants>

**Web link 10** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/routine-childhood-immunisations-from-june-2013>

**Web link 11** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/MMR-catch-up-programme-2013>

**Web link 12** [http://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom\\_dh/public/home.jsf](http://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/home.jsf)

**Web link 13** [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immform](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immform)

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