



## Flu vaccine supply special issue, 2

### Vaccine supply

#### Influenza vaccine supply for the children's part of the national flu vaccination programme

##### Temporary order restriction in place for Fluenz Tetra

To ensure that vaccine is distributed equitably across the NHS in England for the children's part of national flu programme, an initial restriction on the number of doses of Fluenz Tetra that can be ordered by each practice per week will be implemented from the start of ordering on Wednesday 24 September.

The controls will allow practices to order 50 doses per week (5 packs) initially.

We will be monitoring the situation on a daily basis and as soon as we are in receipt of sufficient quantities of vaccine we will lift the restriction.

Further updates will be published In Vaccine Update and on the ImmForm news item.

##### Shelf life of Fluenz Tetra

Fluenz Tetra is a live attenuated vaccine and as such has a very short shelf life. Please bear this in mind when ordering. You may place an order every week but should not order more than you will need for the following week or two. This is to minimise vaccine wastage due to the vaccine passing its expiry date before it can be administered to patients (unused vaccine cannot be returned). Subsequent deliveries of vaccine will have later expiry dates.

## Vaccines available

PHE has centrally procured flu vaccine for those children who are included in this year's phase of the programme and those children aged from six months to less than 18 years old in clinical risk groups.

The following vaccines will be available for the 2014 influenza season for children. The vaccines will be available on the ImmForm website during September as shown below.

Ordering of vaccines is expected to start on the dates set out below:

Vaccine and programme	Manufacturer	Expected date and time ordering opens
<b>Fluenz</b> Tetra® for school pilots	AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Monday 22 September, 9am
<b>Fluenz</b> Tetra® for the national programme	AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Wednesday 24 September, 12 noon
<b>Fluarix</b> Tetra® for the school pilots and national programme	GSK	Monday 22 September, 9am
Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP® for the national programme	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	Monday 22 September, 9am

Please refer to guidance from your respective health departments on supply of influenza vaccines in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The vaccines are supplied for the following cohorts:

Vaccine	Type	Age indication	Cohort
<b>Fluenz</b> Tetra <sup>®</sup> , AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Quadrivalent live attenuated	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll-out cohorts for the phased implementation (2, 3, &amp; 4 year olds) and school pilots.</li> <li>• 2 year olds to less than 18 years old in clinical risk groups</li> </ul>
<b>Fluarix</b> Tetra <sup>®</sup> , GSK	Quadrivalent inactivated	From 3 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in the above cohorts aged from 3 years who are contraindicated for Fluenz Tetra<sup>®</sup>.</li> </ul>
Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (Split Virion) BP <sup>®</sup> , Sanofi Pasteur MSD	Trivalent inactivated	From 6 months of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 months to less than 2 years old in a clinical risk group</li> <li>• Less than 3 years old who are contraindicated for Fluenz Tetra<sup>®</sup>.</li> </ul>

Please refer to table 19.4 in the Green book at [web link 1](#) and [web link 2](#) for advice concerning the number of doses to provide.

### Older eligible patients of the flu programme

Apart from this central procurement of vaccine for children less than 18 years of age, it remains the responsibility of general practices to order sufficient flu vaccine for older eligible patients of the flu programme in 2014/15 directly from manufacturers.

## Web links

- web link 1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19>
- web link 2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccinations-which-flu-vaccine-should-you-or-your-child-have>