



Immunisation news

MenACWY vaccine for teenagers – responding to a national incident

This vaccination is being introduced in England from August this year in response to a rapid and accelerating increase in cases of invasive meningococcal group W (MenW) disease, which has been declared a national incident. The MenACWY conjugate vaccine will provide direct protection to the vaccinated cohort and, by reducing MenW carriage, will also provide indirect protection to unvaccinated children and adults.

See [web link 1](#) for the the joint letter from Public Health England and NHS England introducing the programme, and the [Vaccine supply](#) section below.

The leaflet and poster to support the programme have been published at [web link 2](#) – see also the [Resources](#) section below.

England becomes the first country in the world to begin a national and publicly funded MenB immunisation programme using Bexsero

On 22 June, the first national, routine, publically-funded MenB vaccination programme in the world was announced with the publication of a joint letter from Public Health England and NHS England. The letter sets out the details of the addition of the new MenB vaccine (Bexsero) to the routine childhood immunisation schedule from 1 September 2015. This includes guidance on:

- those infants eligible for vaccination
- clinical advice on use of Bexsero
- details of how to order the vaccine
- new data collection arrangements to measure vaccine uptake
- funding arrangements

The letter can be viewed at [web link 3](#).

Service specifications for the MenB and MenACWY vaccination programmes

These can be viewed at [web link 4](#) under the heading NHS England enhanced service specifications

Excellent rotavirus vaccine uptake continues

The uptake report at [web link 14](#) shows that high coverage was rapidly achieved for the first group of children routinely offered rotavirus vaccine in their first year of life, from July 2013, in England and has been maintained since then. From February 2014 to March 2015 rotavirus vaccine coverage averaged 93.3% for the first dose and 88.3% for the second dose in children evaluated at around six months of age. The success of the programme in reducing cases of rotavirus is indicated by the considerable decline in the number of laboratory reports of cases since the introduction of the vaccine.

For the first time, the rotavirus vaccine coverage data has been published by ethnicity and gender. Although still experimental, these data suggest that whilst vaccine coverage did not vary by gender, there was variation by ethnicity. The highest coverage was achieved in White-British, Chinese and Indian ethnic groups and the lowest coverage was seen in children in 'Other' ethnic groups and of White-Irish ethnicity. These preliminary findings describe health inequalities and will help local teams target communication and interventions to improve uptake among ethnic minorities.

Final flu vaccine uptake data for winter 2014/15

In summary, influenza vaccine uptake in 2014/15 in England was similar to recent seasons in the elderly (72.7%) and in healthcare workers (54.6%), though slightly lower in under 65-year-olds in a pre-defined clinical risk group (50.3%). An increase was seen in pregnant women (44.1%) compared with 2013/14 (39.8%).

In 2014/15, the universal childhood influenza vaccine programme with live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) was offered to all two-, three- and four-year-olds in England, achieving an uptake of 38.5%, 41.3% and 32.9% respectively. For the pilot programme for children of primary and secondary school age (4 to 13 years) in England, an overall uptake of 53.2% was achieved.

In Scotland, an uptake of 71.8% was achieved in primary school-age children, in Northern Ireland an uptake of 79.7% also in primary school age children and in Wales, children aged 11 to 13 years were offered vaccine, achieving an uptake of 74.3%.

For comprehensive information on the uptake of the flu vaccine in GP patients, pregnant women, and children go to [web link 5](#). Data on the uptake in healthcare workers is available at [web link 6](#).

The final overview of the flu surveillance report for 2014/15 is available at [web link 7](#).

Vaccine coverage data for the final quarter of 2014/15 published

Quarterly vaccination coverage statistics for children aged up to five years in the UK (COVER programme) for January to March 2015 have been published at [web link 15](#).

Overall, the data continue to show encouragingly very high levels of coverage at 12 and 24 months and at five years of age across all four countries of the UK.

Resources

Children's flu vaccination leaflet and poster for 2015/16

These publications, which can be viewed at [web link 8](#) along with the consent form in pdf and Word versions and vaccination invitation letters for the various eligible cohorts, are now available to order at [web link 9](#).

Immunising primary school children against flu – information for nursing teams

This sister publication to the briefing for head teachers at [web link 10](#), provides:

- an outline for healthcare teams working with schools
- the potential benefits for schools
- a description of a whole-school approach that can be taken to prepare and engage with the programme
- the communication strategy and key messages that schools may wish to use
- information on how the immunisation can offer links to the curriculum for learning on related topics
- details for healthcare teams about the process of managing consent forms and working with schools

Available as a pdf only, it can be viewed at [web link 11](#).

MenACWY leaflet and poster

These publications can be downloaded and printed out at [web link 2](#). Printed versions can be ordered now at [web link 9](#). Orders will be logged and fulfilled as soon as copies are available during July.

The image displays five NHS publications related to children's flu and meningitis vaccination. From left to right:

- Children's flu vaccination poster and leaflet:** Features a large number '5' and the text '5 reasons to vaccinate your child against flu'. It includes a photograph of a young child with their hand raised.
- Protecting your child against flu:** A leaflet for parents titled 'Protecting your child against flu' with the subtitle 'Information for parents'. It shows a group of diverse children.
- Immunising primary school children against flu:** A leaflet for healthcare teams titled 'Immunising primary school children against flu'. It features a group of children and text describing it as a quick guide for school nurse teams, immunisation teams, community pharmacies, and general practices.
- MenACWY leaflet and poster:** A poster titled 'In school years 9 to 13? Protect yourself against meningitis and septicaemia'. It uses two hand-drawn smiley faces, one green and one yellow.
- MenACWY leaflet and poster:** A leaflet titled 'MENINGITIS AND SEPTICAEMIA' with the subtitle 'New information for students in schools and sixth form colleges'. It features two hand-drawn faces, one sad and one happy.

Vaccine supply

Zostavax supply

A reminder that Zostavax remains available to order for the second year of the shingles programme running until 31 August 2015. Don't delay offering the vaccine to this year's eligible cohorts (those who were aged 70, 78 and 79 years on 1 September 2014).

Timing of ACWY vaccine availability

Due to the speed with which the MenACWY programme is being implemented (see above), PHE will be holding less vaccine buffer stock than would usually be the case for a national programme. This increases the risk that ordering restrictions may be implemented for temporary periods, or vaccines may become temporarily unavailable for ordering, while we await further stocks to be delivered. For this reason, and because initial stocks may be relatively short dated, please do not stockpile the vaccines or over-order, and please note that Menveo will be supplied in packs of five.

PHE will aim to ensure that any periods of supply disruption are minimised and will provide regular updates through *Vaccine update* and the ImmForm news items.

Availability of ACWY vaccine to order for each phase of the MenACWY programme is expected to be as follows. Further details will be provided in due course through *Vaccine update* and in the ImmForm news item.

When to order MenACWY vaccine

When ordering this vaccine it's important to only order sufficient for your immediate needs. Over-ordering will 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?	What age will the pupils be when they receive the vaccine?	In which academic year will the vaccine start to be given?
Mid-July 2015	Current school year 13s and older university entrants (freshers' programme)	17 to 18+	2014/15
August 2015	Routine adolescent programme (school year 9 or 10)	13 to 15	2015/16
January 2016*	Current school year 10 catch-up programme (who will be school year 11 at the time)	15 to 16	2015/16

From when is the vaccine expected to be available?	Which school year of pupils is the vaccine for?	What age will the pupils be when they receive the vaccine?	In which academic year will the vaccine start to be given?
April 2016	Current school year 12s (who will be school year 13 at the time)	17 to 18	2015/16
April 2017	Current school year 11s (who will be school year 13 at the time)	17 to 18	2016/17

*If your routine adolescent programme is carried out through the autumn term rather than from January, please contact vaccinesupply@phe.gov.uk

ACWY vaccines

Initially, two vaccines will be available – Menveo and Nimenrix.



Menveo

- Supplied in a five-dose pack as a powder in a vial and a solution in a vial (10 vials per pack).
- Additional patient information leaflets (PILs) will be supplied with each pack of five vaccines ordered. Please discard the PIL in the pack and use only the additional PILs which have been provided.
- No needles are supplied with this product.



Nimenrix

- Supplied in a single-dose pack as a powder in a vial (MenACWY) and 0.5ml solvent in a pre-filled syringe.
- Two needles are included in the pack.
- A certain volume of Nimenrix will be supplied in general export pack rather than a UK pack.
- Additional patient information leaflets (PILs) will be supplied with vaccine supplied in general export pack.

Use of general export packs of Nimenrix for the MenACWY programme



In order to secure as much MenACWY vaccine as possible, some packs of Nimenrix will be delivered in 'general export packs' with multi-lingual packaging (English, French and Spanish), as illustrated. These packs will gradually be phased out and replaced by

UK specific packs. Please note that the vaccine contained in the general export packs is compliant with all specifications and standards for the UK market. A single copy of the UK approved Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) will be provided with each pack of the vaccine distributed, but the pack itself does not contain a PIL for each dose.

GSK has produced a letter to provide additional information about the use of the general export packs of Nimenrix. See [web link 13](#) (Please note that this is only viewable to ImmForm account holders. Log-in to ImmForm will be required). For convenience, this link will be prominently displayed on the ImmForm vaccine ordering website.

The general export packs of Nimenrix will not include a detachable sticker for use in record keeping, and so this information will have to be transcribed manually.

Spot the difference – Nimenrix or Menitorix?



The newly-introduced MenACWY vaccine – Nimenrix – comes in packaging that is similar to that of the Hib/MenC vaccine – Menitorix. When taking these vaccines from the fridge please make sure you select the correct one for the patient, one of whom who will be 14 years or older and the other 12 to 13 months old.

Men B vaccine and paracetamol availability

The Meningitis B vaccination programme for infants starts on 1 September 2015. The Men B vaccine, Bexsero, will be available to order through ImmForm from the beginning of August 2015.

Bexsero will be supplied as a prefilled syringe in **packs of ten**, without needles and with one patient information leaflet (PIL). Additional PILs will be supplied with each pack of ten Bexsero ordered.



Please ensure sufficient fridge space is available for the new vaccine. Each site holding vaccine is asked to review current stocks of all vaccines. Two to four weeks of stock is recommended. Please remember that the vaccine will be supplied in packs of ten. A review of available fridge space will be necessary to ensure adequate storage capacity at the start of the programme.

Sachets of paracetamol oral suspension (120mg/5ml) in boxes of 12 with measuring devices will also be available to order through the ImmForm website for an initial period from the start of the programme, until communications advising parents on the need to have paracetamol in advance of the vaccination appointment are well established.

Centrally-purchased vaccines for the national immunisation programme for the NHS can only be ordered via ImmForm and are provided free of charge to organisations providing NHS services. Vaccines for private prescriptions, occupational health use or travel are NOT provided free of charge and should be ordered from the manufacturer.

For outbreaks and contacts, vaccine should be procured locally directly from the manufacturer. Further information about ImmForm is available at ImmForm Helpsheet or from the ImmForm helpdesk at helpdesk@immform.org.uk or Tel: 0844 376 0040

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

As in previous years, PHE has centrally procured flu vaccine for all those children in this year's phase of the programme including those aged from six months to less than 18 years old in clinical risk groups. This is to simplify the supply of Fluenz Tetra and inactivated flu vaccine for GPs and other providers during the phased implementation of the children's part of the flu vaccination programme. This covers Fluenz Tetra (live attenuated influenza vaccine) and inactivated flu vaccines for those children for whom Fluenz Tetra is contraindicated or not suitable.

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 2015/16 directly from manufacturers.

The following vaccines will be available for the 2015 influenza season for children, and are expected to be available to order via the ImmForm website starting from late September or early October. Further details on availability of vaccines for each part of the programme (two- to four-year-olds through GPs, and five- to six-year olds through school-based programmes) will be published as information becomes available.

Vaccine	Manufacturer	Indicative date for ordering to start
Fluenz Tetra	AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Late September/early October
Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	Late September
Fluarix Tetra	GSK	Late September

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
Fluenz Tetra, AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Quadrivalent live attenuated	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 2, 3 and 4 year olds All children of school years 1 and 2 age All primary school-aged children from areas that conducted pilots for this age group in 14/15 All children from 2 years to less than 18 years old in clinical risk groups
Fluarix Tetra, GSK	Quadrivalent inactivated	From 3 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in the above cohorts aged from 3 years who are contraindicated for Fluenz Tetra
Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP, Sanofi Pasteur MSD	Trivalent inactivated	From 6 months of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children aged 6 months to less than 2 years in a clinical risk group Children aged less than 3 years who are contraindicated for Fluenz Tetra

Ovalbumin content of the flu vaccines for the 2015/16 influenza season

Note, the ovalbumin content is provided in units of µg/ml and µg/dose.

Supplier	Name of product	Vaccine type	Age indications	Ovalbumin content µg/ml (µg/dose)	Contact details
AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Fluenz Tetra ▼	Live attenuated, nasal	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	≤1.2 (≤0.24/0.2ml dose)	Fluenz Tetra for use in the national children flu programme should be ordered through ImmForm** Otherwise: 0845 139 0000
GSK	Fluarix Tetra ▼	Split virion inactivated virus	From three years	≤0.1 (≤0.05/0.5ml dose)	0800 221 441
MASTA	Agrippal	Surface antigen, inactivated virus	From six months	≤0.4 (≤0.2/0.5ml dose)	0113 238 7552
	Influvac	Surface antigen, inactivated virus	From six months	0.2 (0.1/0.5ml dose)	
	Imuvac	Surface antigen, inactivated virus	From six months	0.2 (0.1/0.5ml dose)	
	Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (Split Virion) BP	Split virion, inactivated virus	From six months	≤0.1 (≤0.05/0.5ml dose)	
Mylan, formerly Abbott Healthcare	Influvac	Surface antigen, inactivated virus	From six months	0.2 (0.1/0.5ml dose)	0800 358 7468
	Imuvac	Surface antigen, inactivated virus	From six months	0.2 (0.1/0.5ml dose)	
Novartis Vaccines	Agrippal	Surface antigen, inactivated virus	From six months	≤0.4 (≤0.2/0.5ml dose)	08457 451 500
	Optaflu	Surface antigen, inactivated virus, prepared in cell cultures	From 18 years	No ovalbumin	
Pfizer Vaccines	bioCSL generic influenza vaccine	Split virion, inactivated virus	From five years	≤2 (≤1/0.5ml dose)	0800 089 4033
	Enzira	Split virion inactivated virus	From five years	≤2 (≤1/0.5ml dose)	
Sanofi Pasteur MSD	Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP	Split virion, inactivated virus	From six months	≤0.1 (≤0.05/0.5ml dose)	0800 085 5511
	Intanza 15 micrograms	Split virion, inactivated virus	60 years of age and over	≤0.24 (≤0.024/0.1ml dose)	

None of the influenza vaccines for the 2015/16 season contains thiomersal as an added preservative.

** In England, this vaccine should be ordered online via the [ImmForm website](#)

This chart can also be viewed at [web link 12](#).

BCG vaccine

As previously featured in Vaccine update (see [web link 16](#)), BCG vaccine is currently unavailable to order through the ImmForm website, due to delays in supply from the manufacturer, Statens Serum Institute in Denmark.

We now expect to receive the next consignment during August, and remain in close contact with the manufacturer to expedite supplies for the UK as quickly as possible.

Each pack of BCG vaccine contains ten vials with a minimum of ten doses per vial (i.e. 100 doses) and efforts should be made to ensure efficient use of existing stocks, following the prioritisation advice set out in [web link 17](#).

If additional stock is required in an emergency please contact the ImmForm helpdesk on 0844 376 0040.

Infanrix IPV Hib and Pediacel

In order to balance stocks of primary vaccines, Infanrix IPV Hib is currently capped to one order of nine doses per ImmForm account per week. As an alternative, Pediacel is available through ImmForm without restriction.

Although Pediacel and Infanrix IPV Hib are interchangeable, ideally the same DTaP-containing vaccine should be used for all three doses of the primary course. Vaccination should never be delayed because the vaccine used for previous doses is not known or unavailable.

Hepatitis A vaccine

Havrix Monodose

Towards the end of 2014, GSK highlighted that UK availability of monovalent hepatitis A vaccine (Havrix Monodose) would be reduced during 2015, due to unexpected manufacturing issues. As of the end of June 2015, GSK have now reached the end of the available stocks of this vaccine in most of the UK. Supply constraints are not anticipated to pose risks to public health in the UK as alternative hepatitis A vaccines are available from other manufacturers. Also, combination hepatitis A vaccines are available from GSK, contact GSK's customer contact team on 0808 100 9997. Supply is expected to return to full capacity by early 2016.

Vaqta Adult and Vaqta Paediatric

Sanofi Pasteur MSD have supplies of Vaqta Adult (hepatitis A vaccine for adults) and Vaqta Paediatric (hepatitis A vaccine for juniors) available. Contact Sanofi Pasteur MSD's Customer Service on 0800 085 5511.

Web links

- web link 1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/menacwy-vaccine-introduction>
- web link 2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/meningococcal-acwy-menacwy-vaccination-programme>
- web link 3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/menb-vaccination-introduction-from-1-september-2015>
- web link 4 <http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/gp-contract/>
- web link 5 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake#seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake>
- web link 6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-healthcare-workers-in-england-winter-season-2014-to-2015>
- web link 7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-flu-reports>
- web link 8 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childhood-flu-programme-2015-to-2016-extension-advice-for-parents-and-schools>
- web link 9 https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/home.jsf
- web link 10 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-for-primary-school-children-advice-for-headteachers>
- web link 11 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-for-primary-school-children-advice-for-healthcare-teams-working-with-schools>
- web link 12 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-vaccines-2015-to-2016-flu-season>
- web link 13 <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/VaccineSupply/VaccineSupply/News/test.aspx>
- web link 14 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rotavirus-vaccine-uptake-report-for-england>
- web link 15 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/438439/hpr2215_cover.pdf
- web link 16 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-229-aprilmay-2015>
- web link 17 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-227-march-2015>