



VACCINE SUPPLY SPECIAL EDITION

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

Ordering of flu vaccines for the children's programme in 2015/16 is expected to start in England on the dates set out below:

Vaccine	Manufacturer	Indicative date for ordering to start
Inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP*	Sanofi Pasteur MSD	Thursday 10 September
Fluarix Tetra	GSK	Thursday 10 September
Fluenz Tetra	AstraZeneca UK	For schools-based programmes: anticipated week ending 25 September
		For GP-based delivery: anticipated week ending 2 October

*Note: There is a typographical error in the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) included with all doses of inactivated influenza vaccine (split virion) BP.

Section 6 on the reverse side of the leaflet reads:

'This vaccine complies with the WHO (World Health Organisation) recommendations (Northern hemisphere) and EU decision for the 2014/2015 season.'

It should instead read:

'This vaccine complies with the WHO (World Health Organisation) recommendations (Northern hemisphere) and EU decision for the 2015/2016 season.'

A copy of the corrected PIL is available at [web link 1](#).

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

Children included in the 2015/2016 programme

As in previous years, PHE has centrally procured flu vaccine for all those children included in this year's phase of the programme, including those aged from six months to less than 18 years in clinical risk groups.

Vaccine is supplied for the following cohorts:

Vaccine	Type	Age indication	Cohort
Fluenz Tetra, AstraZeneca UK	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 olds¹ All children of school years 1 and 2 age¹ All primary school- aged children from areas that conducted pilots in 2014/15 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

¹ On 31 August 2015

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.

Ordering and 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 will be able to place an order **every week** and deliveries will be made weekly alongside your usual deliveries of vaccines. Where possible, do not order more than you will need for the next two weeks. This is to minimise vaccine wastage due to the vaccine passing its expiry date before it can be administered to patients. The vaccine will be available to order throughout the entire flu season to ensure there is in date stock available into the new year. Subsequent deliveries of vaccine will have later expiry dates.

MenACWY vaccine

MenACWY vaccine is currently available to order through the ImmForm website for older university entrants (freshers). Orders are capped at 25 doses per order per week. GPs should now have ordered all required stock for those who were in school year 13 in academic year 2014/15 and ordering of additional stock should only be considered on an exception basis.

Ordering for the routine adolescent programme (current school year 9 and 10) is expected to open mid-September and once open, this will be communicated through Vaccine Update and the ImmForm website.

Due to the speed with which the MenACWY programme is being implemented, PHE is holding less vaccine buffer stock than would usually be the case for a national programme. This has increased the likelihood of temporary ordering restrictions and periods of unavailability, but we are working to ensure that any periods of supply disruption are minimised and will provide regular updates through Vaccine Update and the ImmForm news items. Additional stock can be requested on a case by case basis through the ImmForm helpdesk.

Further details on the availability of ACWY vaccine to order for each phase of the programme is below.

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?	Dates of birth of pupils who will receive the vaccine (inclusive)	In which academic year will the vaccine start to be given?
Now, although GPs should have ordered all required stock.	2014/15 school year 13s	1/9/96 to 31/8/97	2014/15
Available now	Older university entrants (freshers' programme)	1/9/90 to 31/8/96	2014/15
Mid-September 2015	Routine adolescent programme (school year 9 or 10)	1/9/00 to 31/8/02	2015/16
January 2016	Current school year 11 catch-up programme	1/9/99 to 31/8/00	2015/16
April 2016	Current school year 13	1/9/97 to 31/8/98	2015/16
April 2017	Current school year 12s (who will be school year 13 at the time)	1/9/98 to 31/8/99	2016/17

Web links

web link 1 <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/17376>