



Keep calm and carry on vaccinating

Dear colleagues

Many of you will be involved in providing health services to known or suspected cases of COVID-19 infection. Whilst preventing the spread of COVID-19 and caring for those infected is a public health priority, it is very important to maintain good coverage of immunisations, particularly in the childhood programme. This will avoid outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases that could increase further the numbers of patients requiring health services.

The routine childhood immunisation programme is highly successful in reducing the incidence of serious and sometimes life-threatening diseases such as pneumococcal and meningococcal infections, whooping cough, diphtheria and measles. It remains important to maintain the best possible vaccine uptake to prevent a resurgence of these infections.

Providing baby and parents are well and not displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or other infections, routine childhood immunisations should proceed. The six to eight week baby check is not required as part of the assessment for immunisation to commence at eight weeks of age.

To that end, we ask that you continue to offer routine vaccinations maintaining the highest uptake possible.



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National Immunisation Network meeting 2020 is cancelled.



It is with great regret that we have made the decision not to go ahead with this year's NIN2020. It is deeply disappointing as we had the strongest agenda with a diverse and critically important range of expert speakers to share with you. We have had to concentrate our efforts on the current COVID-19 situation.

Not only are our speakers but also our delegates maybe engaged directly in the coronavirus response so despite hoping we could go ahead, we now feel that this is not possible. We will be back in 2021 and hope to share our fantastic agenda with you then. We will issue a save the date for you later this year.

For information on COVID-19, please visit: www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance

Shortage of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23)

Supply of PPV23 remains limited; practices should continue to prioritise vaccination according to the recommendations below.

PPV23 is recommended for:

- individuals aged from 2 years or over in clinical risk groups
- all individuals aged 65 years and over

A single lifetime dose is recommended for most individuals. Five yearly boosters are recommended for asplenic patients and those with chronic kidney disease.

Advice on how to manage the PPV23 programme

1. If you are able to procure stock, the priority should be to offer vaccine to those newly diagnosed with conditions in the high priority group followed by those in moderate priority groups who have never received PPV23 (see the table below). When such individuals are first identified, if no vaccine is available, please ensure that their records are flagged in order to call them for a future appointment. Also ensure that other aspects of management are optimised and in place (for example antibiotic prophylaxis, or booster doses of PCV13) – as advised in relevant guidance, or by the specialist clinician caring for patient.
2. Any PPV23 dose that the surgery is able to access should be offered opportunistically to high and moderate priority groups attending an appointment at the surgery who have never received PPV23 and are due this vaccine.
3. PPV23 vaccination for lower priority groups (including healthy individuals aged 65 years and over) and booster doses for asplenic, those with splenic dysfunction and chronic kidney disease are less urgent and can be planned when sufficient stock is available.

National stocks of PCV13 (Prevenar13), or separately procured PCV10 (Synflorix), should not be used in place of PPV23 because herd protection from the childhood PCV13 programme has reduced pneumococcal disease due to these serotypes across all ages, including the elderly. PPV23 helps provide additional protection against serotypes that are not covered by PCV13 or PCV10.

Table: Priority groups for Pneumococcal polysaccharide 23-valent vaccine (PPV23)

Clinical risk group	Examples (decision based on clinical judgement)
High priority	
Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen	This also includes conditions such as homozygous sickle cell disease and coeliac syndrome that may lead to splenic dysfunction.
Immunosuppression	Due to disease or treatment, including patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, bone marrow transplant, asplenia or splenic dysfunction, HIV infection at all stages, multiple myeloma or genetic disorders affecting the immune system (e.g. IRAK-4, NEMO, complement deficiency) Individuals on or likely to be on systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at 20mg or more per day (any age), or for children under 20kg, a dose of 1mg or more per kg per day.
Individuals with cerebrospinal fluid leaks	It is important that immunisation does not delay the cochlear implantation.
Moderate priority	
Chronic respiratory disease	This includes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including chronic bronchitis and emphysema; and such conditions as bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD). Children with respiratory conditions caused by aspiration, or a neurological disease (e.g. cerebral palsy) with a risk of aspiration. Asthma is not an indication, unless so severe as to require continuous or frequently repeated use of systemic steroids (as defined in Immunosuppression below).
Chronic heart disease	This includes those requiring regular medication and/ or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease, congenital heart disease, hypertension with cardiac complications, and chronic heart failure.
Chronic kidney disease	Nephrotic syndrome, chronic kidney disease at stages 4 and 5 and those on kidney dialysis or with kidney transplantation.
Chronic liver disease	This includes cirrhosis, biliary atresia and chronic hepatitis.
Diabetes	Diabetes mellitus requiring insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs. This does not include diabetes that is diet controlled.
Low priority	
Healthy over 65s	

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV)

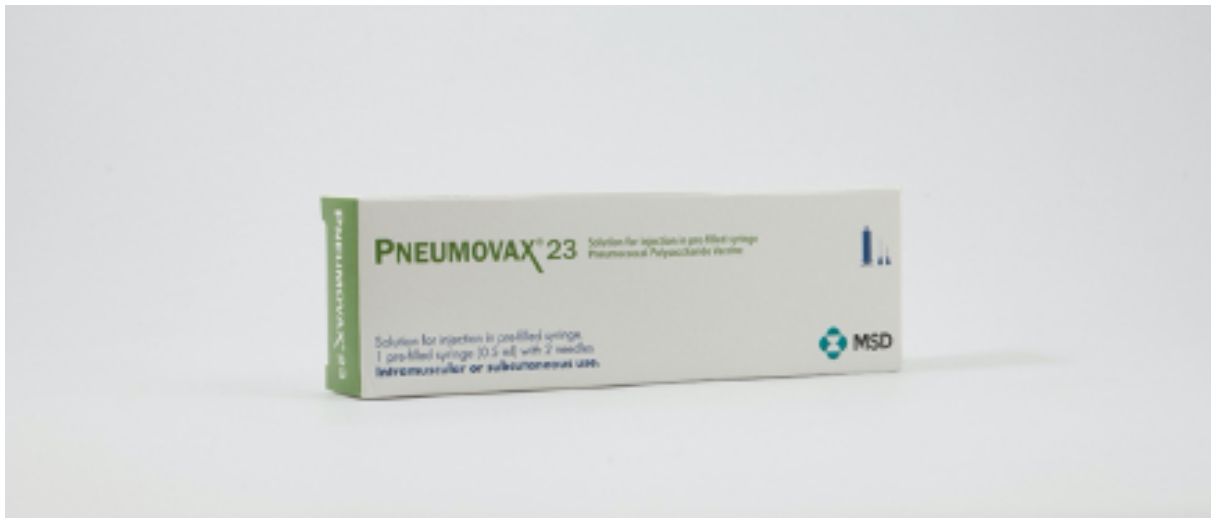


Image shows PNEUMOVAX[®] 23 pre-filled syringe presentation (PFS) of PPV

MSD is transitioning to pre-filled syringe presentation (PFS) of PPV under the brand name PNEUMOVAX[®] 23 which will replace all future supply of vials from May 2020. Vials will continue to be available intermittently until May 2020. A combination of growing global demand for pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines, alongside manufacturing constraints, have led to regular interruptions in supply of PPV to the UK since 2017. The introduction of a PFS presentation of PPV is intended to support the continuity of supply and to help address public health need.

Pneumovax[®] 23 in the PFS presentation can be ordered in the same way as the PPV in vials; through MSD's distribution partner AAH online at www.aah.co.uk or by phone on 0344 561 8899. Customers need an AAH account to place an order.

For more information about the vaccine, please refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC).

Prevenar13[®] Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV13)

Some patients in high risk groups such as those with asplenia, splenic dysfunction, complement disorder or severe immunocompromise, may require extra doses of PCV13 in addition to those that may already have been administered as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme.

Further detail on those in these risk groups who may require PCV13 is available in chapter 25 of the Green Book: www.gov.uk/government/publications/pneumococcal-the-green-book-chapter-25

Prevenar13[®] for use in risk groups outside of the national programme is supplied directly from Pfizer (single dose packs of Prevenar13[®]). Due to a temporary gap in Pfizer's supply chain, for a limited time Prevenar13[®] from central stock can be used to cover risk groups outside of the national programme.

PCV13 schedule change reminder

As published in issue 303 (Dec 2019), the PCV13 routine immunisation schedule changed on the 1 January 2020. The change means that babies born on or after 1 January 2020 will have one priming dose of PCV13 at the age of 12 weeks, followed by a booster dose at the age 12 months. Babies born on or before the 31 December 2019 will continue to be offered two priming doses at the age of 8 and 16 weeks, followed by a booster dose at the age 12 months. Further information is available at [weblink 1](#).

Please ensure that you keep the change in schedule in mind when ordering Prevenar13 from ImmForm and do not order too much. We recommend that customers hold a maximum of 2-4 weeks stock to minimise the potential for wastage.

Vaccine supply

Routine vaccination programme

Vaccines for the 2019/20 children's flu programme

Ordering for Fluenz[®] Tetra is now closed.

The injectable vaccine (Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (split virion, inactivated)) remains available to order.

Providing a second dose of flu vaccine after all Fluenz[®] Tetra has expired

If you still need to give a second dose of flu vaccine four weeks after the first dose (for example, for children in clinical risk groups aged two to under nine years who have not received influenza vaccine before), then it is safe and effective to give inactivated vaccine as a second dose where Fluenz[®] Tetra is no longer available.

Expiry dates for Fluenz® Tetra issued in 2019/20

Batch numbers and associated expiry dates of Fluenz® Tetra for all batches issued this season are set out in the table below. Batches that have already expired are marked in red.

Please ensure that the expiry date is always checked before use and that expired stock is disposed of in line with local policies. Any disposed stock should be recorded through the ImmForm stock incident page at [weblink 2](#).

Batch	Expiry date in 2020
LJ2149	08-Jan
LJ2168	09-Jan
LJ2169	10-Jan
LJ2334	16-Jan
LJ2515	27-Jan
LK2526	06-Feb
LK2527	10-Feb
LK2979	13-Feb
LK2980	20-Feb
LK2981	27-Feb
LK2982	02-Mar
LL2196	05-Mar
LL2197	12-Mar
LL2198	16-Mar
LL2199	20-Mar
LL2567	26-Mar
LM3089	31-Mar
LL2570	01-Apr

All influenza vaccines for the 2019/20 season

Information on all influenza vaccines marketed in the UK for the 2019/20 season are available at [weblink 3](#). Please refer to the flu letter (see [weblink 4](#)) for information on which vaccines are eligible for reimbursement in the 2019/20 season.

Maternal Pertussis programme – Change to dTaP/IPV vaccine

The maternal pertussis immunisation programme commenced in October 2012, initially using Repevax[®] vaccine (dTaP/IPV). From July 2014, Boostrix[®]-IPV (dTaP/IPV) has been supplied. Repevax[®] is now available to order through ImmForm for use in the maternal pertussis immunisation programme instead of Boostrix[®]-IPV.

This is a temporary change and it is anticipated that supplies will revert back to Boostrix[®]-IPV in autumn 2020. This change is necessary as PHE is running down all stock of Repevax[®] before the introduction of Boostrix[®]-IPV across both the maternal pertussis and the pre-school booster programmes.

There is no other change to the maternal pertussis immunisation programme, further details about this programme can be found in chapter 24 of the Green Book at [weblink 5](#).

Update to Bexsero Patient Information Leaflet

Every pack of Bexsero (Meningitis B vaccine; 10 doses) is supplied with a pad of ten Patient Information Leaflets (PILs), as well as there being a single PIL inside each Bexsero pack. Since late-September 2019, an updated version of the PIL pad has been distributed with Bexsero orders. Please dispose of the single PIL from inside the pack, as it will be out-of-date.

We will advise further when the PIL supplied in the pack is in line with the PIL pad.

MMR vaccine ordering

There are currently two different vaccines available to order for the MMR programme, MMRvaxPRO[®] and Priorix[®]. Orders for Priorix[®] are capped at 10 packs per order per week for accounts in England and Wales. Controls are also in place for Scottish customers. This is needed to rebalance central supplies.

The alternative MMR vaccine, MMRvaxPRO[®], remains available to order without restriction. If you specifically require additional Priorix[®] stock, for example because you serve communities that do not accept vaccines that contain porcine gelatine then please contact the ImmForm Helpdesk for assistance at helpdesk@immform.org.uk or 0207 183 8580.

The EU Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD) and Delegated Regulation as applicable to PHE supplied vaccines for the national immunisation programme

Full information on FMD as it applies to centrally supplied vaccines for the National Immunisation Programme can be found in the April 2019 edition of Vaccine update at [weblink 6](#).

ImmForm vaccines in FMD-compliant packs (i.e. subject to the requirements of the Delegated Regulation) are being distributed for all centrally-supplied products (see table below). We would encourage all of our customers to visit the GOV.UK page on FMD at [weblink 7](#) and spend some time becoming familiar with the content and links to various other guidance documents on the implementation of the legislation.

Product	Brand name	FMD-compliant packs will be issued which require verification and decommissioning
Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV)	Prevenar13	Live
DTaP/IPV vaccine for pregnant women	Boostrix-IPV	Live
Meningococcal Group ACWY vaccine	Nimenrix	Live
Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine	MMR VaxPRO	Live
DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB vaccine	Infanrix Hexa	Live
Tuberculosis vaccine (BCG)	BCG Vaccine AJV	Live
Meningococcal Group B vaccine	Bexsero	Live
Shingles (Herpes zoster) vaccine	Zostavax	Live
Hib/MenC vaccine	Menitorix	Live
Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine	Priorix	Live
Rotavirus vaccine	Rotarix	Live
Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine	Gardasil	Live
DTaP/IPV vaccine for infants	Repevax	Live
Td/IPV vaccine	Revaxis	Live
LAIV	Fluenz Tetra	Live
Quadrivalent inactivated flu vaccine (QIVe)	Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (split virion, inactivated)	Live
Purified protein derivative (Mantoux test)	Tuberculin PPD-2TU	All stock will be in non-FMD packs (as it is unlicensed in UK)

Please note that the barcode on Rotarix batch AROLC284AA (exp. 31/05/2021) is non-serialised and therefore cannot be verified or decommissioned.

If you have identified yourself to PHE as being exempt from decommissioning under Article 23 of the Delegated Regulation and this has been agreed, then you will be supplied with decommissioned vaccine.

Please see our guidance for more information on the roles and responsibilities in relation to FMD and the Delegated Regulation, regarding vaccines and other medicines centrally supplied by PHE to the NHS and other customers. This document is accessible via GOV.UK at [weblink 8](#).

Early notice: Easter and spring bank holiday delivery and order cut-off changes

Due to the Easter Holidays, there will not be any deliveries or order processing by Movianto UK on **Friday 10 April 2020 or Monday 13 April 2020**. For all Easter and spring bank holidays, order cut-offs will be earlier for some customers with delivery days falling after the bank holidays, to allow enough time for order processing. Please see the tables below for revised order cut-off and delivery dates in bold. Customers are reminded to be prepared for the break in deliveries and to order accordingly.

Please make sure you have enough room in your fridge for any additional vaccine you wish to stock over this holiday period. Out of Schedule deliveries cannot be arranged for failure to place orders in good time.

Usual order cut-off day (by 11.55am)	Easter Holiday order cut-off dates (by 11.55 am; revisions are in bold)	Delivery Date
Wednesday	Wednesday 1 April 2020	Friday 3 April 2020
Thursday	Thursday 2 April 2020	Monday 6 April 2020
Friday	Friday 3 April 2020	Tuesday 7 April 2020
Monday	Monday 6 April 2020	Wednesday 8 April 2020
Tuesday	Tuesday 7 April 2020	Thursday 9 April 2020
Wednesday	Not applicable	No deliveries – Good Friday, 10 April 2020
Thursday	Not applicable	No deliveries – Easter Monday, 13 April 2020
Friday	Wednesday 8 April 2020	Tuesday 14 April 2020
Monday	Thursday 9 April 2020	Wednesday 15 April 2020
Tuesday	Tuesday 14 April 2020	Thursday 16 April 2020
Wednesday	Wednesday 15 April 2020	Friday 17 April 2020
Thursday	Thursday 16 April 2020	Monday 20 April 2020

For the Early May Bank Holiday, there will not be any deliveries or order processing by Movianto UK on **Friday 8 May 2020**. The following changes apply:

Usual order cut-off day (by 11.55am)	Easter Holiday order cut-off dates (by 11.55 am; revisions are in bold)	Delivery Date
Wednesday	Wednesday 29 April 2020	Friday 1 May 2020
Thursday	Thursday 30 April 2020	Monday 4 May 2020
Friday	Friday 1 May 2020	Tuesday 5 May 2020
Monday	Monday 4 May 2020	Wednesday 6 May 2020
Tuesday	Tuesday 5 May 2020	Thursday 7 May 2020
Wednesday	Not applicable	No deliveries – Early May Bank Holiday, Friday 8 May 2020
Thursday	Wednesday 6 May 2020	Monday 11 May 2020
Friday	Thursday 7 May 2020	Tuesday 12 May 2020
Monday	Monday 11 May 2020	Wednesday 13 May 2020
Tuesday	Tuesday 12 May 2020	Thursday 14 May 2020
Wednesday	Wednesday 13 May 2020	Friday 15 May 2020
Thursday	Thursday 14 May 2020	Monday 18 May 2020

For the late Spring May Bank Holiday, there will not be any deliveries or order processing by Movianto UK on **Monday 25 May 2020**. The following changes apply:

Usual order cut-off day (by 11.55am)	Easter Holiday order cut-off dates (by 11.55 am; revisions are in bold)	Delivery Date
Thursday	Thursday 14 May 2020	Monday 18 May 2020
Friday	Friday 15 May 2020	Tuesday 19 May 2020
Monday	Monday 18 May 2020	Wednesday 20 May 2020
Tuesday	Tuesday 19 May 2020	Thursday 21 May 2020
Wednesday	Wednesday 20 May 2020	Friday 22 May 2020
Thursday	Not applicable	No deliveries – Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 25 May 2020
Friday	Thursday 21 May 2020	Tuesday 26 May 2020
Monday	Friday 22 May 2020	Wednesday 27 May 2020
Tuesday	Tuesday 26 May 2020	Thursday 28 May 2020
Wednesday	Wednesday 27 May 2020	Friday 29 May 2020
Thursday	Thursday 28 May 2020	Monday 1 June 2020

Registering for a new or updating your existing ImmForm vaccine ordering account

When you register for or update an existing ImmForm account, Public Health England as a wholesaler of vaccines need to verify the requesting customer.

Please ensure you have your professional regulatory body registration number or Wholesale Dealers Licence and an organisation code which can be verified when requesting updates or requesting a new vaccine ordering account.

For more information please see the ImmForm Helpsheet – How to register at [weblink 9](#).

Vaccine supply

Non-routine vaccination programme

HEPATITIS A VACCINE

Adult

- **GSK:** Havrix Adult PFS singles and packs of 10 are available
- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Limited supplies of Avaxim PFS singles are available
- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Avaxim PFS packs of 10 are available
- **MSD:** VAQTA Adult is available

Paediatric

- **GSK:** Havrix Paediatric PFS singles and packs of 10 are available
- **MSD:** VAQTA Paediatric is available

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

Adult

- **GSK:** Engerix B PFS singles and packs of 10 are available
- **GSK:** Engerix B vials singles are available
- **GSK:** Engerix B vials packs of 10 are unavailable
- **GSK:** Fendrix is available
- **MSD:** HBVAXPRO 10 µg is unavailable until further notice
- **MSD:** HBVAXPRO 40 µg is unavailable until further notice

Paediatric

- **GSK:** Engerix B Paediatric singles are available
- **MSD:** HBVAXPRO 5µg are available

COMBINED HEPATITIS A & B VACCINE

- **GSK:** Limited supplies of Twinrix Adult singles and packs of 10 are available
- **GSK:** Twinrix Paediatric is available
- **GSK:** Ambirix is available

COMBINED HEPATITIS A & TYPHOID VACCINE

- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Viatim is available

TYPHOID VACCINE

- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Limited supplies of Typhim are available. Typhim will be out of stock from early April until early June 2020
- **Emergent:** Vivotif is available

RABIES VACCINE

- **GSK;** Rabipur is currently available
- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Rabies BP is currently out of stock. An alternative vaccine is available, please contact Sanofi Pasteur directly for more information

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV)

- **MSD:** Limited supplies of Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine vials are available. (Please see page 12 of the [Bug Special Vaccine Update issue 300, October 2019](#) for further information)
- **MSD:** Supplies of PNEUMOVAX 23 PFS are currently unavailable. Resupply is expected in May 2020

Pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugate Vaccine (PCV)

- **Pfizer:** Prevenar 13 is unavailable. Resupply date to be confirmed. Supplies for the national immunisation programme are unaffected

VARICELLA ZOSTER VACCINE

- **GSK:** VARILRIX is currently available
- **MSD:** VARIVAX is currently available
- **MSD:** Supplies of ZOSTAVAX are currently unavailable. Resupply is expected Q2 2020. Supplies for the national immunisation programme are unaffected

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS (inactivated) VACCINE

- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Revaxis is available

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, PERTUSSIS (acellular) AND POLIOMYELITIS (inactivated) VACCINE

- **GSK:** Limited supply of Boostrix-IPV is currently available

MMR

- **MSD:** Limited supply of MMRvaxPro is currently available. Resupply expected end of March 2020. Supplies for the national immunisation programme are unaffected
- **GSK:** Priorix is currently available

MENINGITIS ACWY VACCINE

- **GSK:** Menveo is available
- **Pfizer:** Nimenrix is currently available

YELLOW FEVER

- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Stamaril is available

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINE

- **MSD:** Limited supply of GARDASIL is available. Supplies for the national immunisation programme are unaffected
- **MSD:** Gardasil 9 is currently available
- **GSK:** Cervarix is currently available

CHOLERA VACCINE

- **Valneva:** Dukoral is available

JAPANESE ENCEPHALYTIS VACCINE

- **Valneva:** Ixiaro is available

Weblinks

- weblink 1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pneumococcal-vaccination-programme>
- weblink 2 <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/VaccineSupply/VaccineSupply/Stock-Incident/Add-Stock-incident.aspx>
- weblink 3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-vaccine-ovalbumin-content>
- weblink 4 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/788903/Annual_national_flu_programme_2019_to_2020_.pdf
- weblink 5 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-the-green-book-chapter-24>
- weblink 6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-293-april-2019>
- weblink 7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fmd-guidance-for-recipients-of-phe-supplied-vaccines>
- weblink 8 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fmd-guidance-for-recipients-of-phe-supplied-vaccines>
- weblink 9 <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/Help-Guides.aspx>