



Oral fluid test kit instruction video now available!

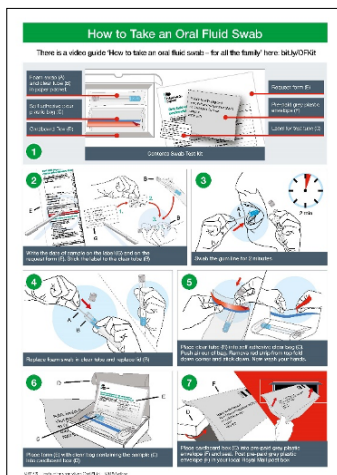
For suspected cases of measles, mumps and rubella.

The video link can be found at [weblink 1](#). It has been added to the instruction sheet (shown below) to help families to use the kit properly and feel confident to swab infants or older children and adults. We hope this will help improve return rates.

Clinicians are reminded that they are required to notify all suspected measles, mumps and rubella cases as soon as possible to their local Health Protection Team (HPT) at [weblink 2](#) so that timely public health risk assessment and management can be undertaken.

This should continue during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When measles is not endemic, the positive predictive value of a clinical diagnosis is generally poor. As part of global measles and rubella elimination efforts PHE are required to provide evidence to WHO that at least **80% of all suspected measles and rubella cases** are being confirmed or discarded using an appropriate test.



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When a suspected case of measles, mumps or rubella is notified to a HPT they ensure that an oral fluid kit (OFK) is sent out directly to the patient by post. We hope that the new instruction video will make sample taking even more easy for patients.

The oral fluid kits are processed by the Virology Reference Department in PHE Colindale. The full results take about three weeks to generate and are sent to the patient's GP by post or e-lab and copied to the HPT (via e-lab).

You can find the: a) laboratory request form, b) template letter for HPTs to send to patients or parents of children with suspected measles, mumps or rubella, c) pictogram instruction sheet shown above, d) the instruction video for patients and e) instructions for HPT staff at [weblink 3](#).

National flu immunisation programme plan

National flu immunisation programme for 2020 to 2021.

Every year a tripartite Annual Flu letter is published which is the main communication about which groups will be eligible for flu vaccination in the coming flu season.

This year, two letters will be published. The first one confirms eligibility for the flu vaccine and recommendations on which vaccines to offer to different patient groups. It reminds providers that they should start planning now for this coming autumn and to check whether they have ordered sufficient vaccine.

A second letter will be published nearer the start of the vaccination programme, with further guidance about how to manage the programme given the challenges presented by COVID-19 at [weblink 4](#).

Pneumococcal Guidance

Pneumococcal disease is the term used to describe infections caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (also called pneumococcus). *S. pneumoniae* is an encapsulated gram-positive coccus.

Infections are either non-invasive or invasive. Non-invasive diseases include middle ear infections (otitis media), sinusitis and bronchitis. Invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) includes septicaemia, pneumonia and meningitis.

IPD is a major cause of disease and death globally and in the UK. It particularly affects:

- the very young
- the elderly
- people with no spleen or a non-functioning spleen
- people with other causes of impaired immunity and certain chronic medical conditions

We have recently update the guidance for the management of pneumococcal disease in closed settings found here:

Managing clusters of pneumococcal disease in closed settings

[weblink 5](#)

Pneumococcal vaccination: guidance for health professionals

[weblink 6](#)

The pneumococcal Immunisation Programme for Older People and Risk Groups

[weblink 7](#)

Protocol for clinical management of cases of Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD) in children

[weblink 8](#)

And a reminder of the other pneumococcal guidance and links the green book chapter of immunisation are available at [weblink 20](#).

Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage report to end of March: England



This is the third quarterly shingles report of the fiscal year 2019 to 2020 evaluating cumulative shingles vaccine coverage among those who became 70 or 78-years old between 1 April 2019 and 31 December 2019, assessed at the end of March 2020 ([weblink 19](#)).

Cumulative coverage at the end of March 2020 for cohorts first offered shingles vaccine prior to the fiscal year 2018 to 2019 was highest among 76-year olds (76.9%) and lowest among 71-year olds (47.8%), who became eligible last year.

Cumulative vaccine coverage estimates for adults that became eligible for the shingles vaccine during quarter 3 (born between 1 October and 31 December) and evaluated at the end of March 2020 was 21.5% for the 70-year old routine cohort and 22.0% for the 78-year old catch-up

cohort, compared to 22.2% and 22.8% for the 70 and 78 year olds respectively in quarter 3 last year.

Meanwhile, coverage for adults that became eligible for the shingles vaccine during quarter 1 (from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019) and evaluated at the end of March 2020 is 38.2% for the 70 year old routine cohort and 37.3% coverage for the 78-year old catch-up cohorts. Shingles vaccine coverage during quarter 2 (from 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019) and evaluated at the end of March 2020 was 34.4% for the 70-year old routine cohort and 33.5% coverage for the 78-year old catch-up cohorts.

Shingles vaccine coverage estimates for those turning 70 and 78-years old during quarter 3 remain similar to quarter 3 last year. Vaccine coverage cannot be compared with estimates prior to those 2018 to 2019 estimates due to the new eligible criteria and changes in the coverage calculation methodology.

While it is important to ensure that individuals who become eligible for the shingles vaccine have the opportunity to get vaccinated in the year they become eligible, improving coverage among previously eligible cohort is equally important as these individuals remain at risk and are more likely to develop more severe outcomes. It is therefore reassuring to see that these cohorts are still being opportunistically vaccinated and that coverage among those who became eligible five years ago is high.

Interrupted vaccination schedules: general principles for travel health professionals

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in international travel plans being put on hold. Due to the social distancing measures and reprioritisation of clinical activities, many travel health providers are not currently offering travel vaccination services. Guidance on managing interrupted travel vaccination courses has been published at [weblink 9](#) in a short news item by NaTHNaC on their TravelHealthPro website.

NHS resources to encourage people to attend routine vaccinations

NHS England and Public Health England are urging people to attend routine vaccinations to prevent outbreaks of serious diseases as part of a campaign to encourage people to use their NHS if they need it. Parents, in particular, are being urged to make sure pre-school children attend vaccination appointments, and pregnant women are being advised not to miss out on antenatal vaccinations which protect them and their baby.

NEW! Promoting immunisation social media cards

As promised last month ([weblink 11](#)) we have published a further five additional new resources to promote immunisation to pregnant mums, parents of pre-school children and young families.

Please use these resources to promote immunisation on your social media channels, websites and Whatsapp or Facebook groups.

You can download them from the Health Publications website – search for: 2020058 COVID-19 Promoting immunisation social media cards ([weblink 10](#)).

Additional NHS materials and resources for hospitals, GPs, pharmacies and other NHS settings can be accessed using [weblink 12](#).



Vaccine supply

Routine vaccination 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 13](#).

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.

2019 to 2020 Inactivated flu vaccine for children – still available to order

The injectable vaccine (Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (split virion, inactivated)) will remain available to order until early June. This vaccine has an order cap of 20 doses per week.

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 14](#).

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 0844 376 0040.

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 15](#).

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 on following page).

We would encourage all of our customers to visit the GOV.UK page on FMD at [weblink 16](#) 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 because it was released before the Regulation came into force, and therefore cannot be verified or decommissioned; however, it can still be used.

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 17](#).

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

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 table 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.

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)	May Bank 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 – 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 Wholesaler Dealer 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 18](#).

Vaccine supply

Non-routine vaccination programme

Prevenar 13 is in stock

Supply for the national infant pneumococcal immunisation programme is ordered via IMMFORM, Prevenar 13 0.5ml ten pack.

Vaccine supply for individuals in certain high-risk groups outside the national programme is supplied directly from Pfizer via Alliance as Prevenar 13 0.5ml single pack.

HEPATITIS A VACCINE

Adult

- **GSK:** Havrix Adult PFS singles and packs of 10 are available
- **Sanofi Pasteur:** Avaxim PFS singles are available and 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:** 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:** Supplies of Typhim are currently unavailable. Resupply is anticipated in 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:** Limited supplies of PNEUMOVAX 23 PFS are currently available

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)

- **Pfizer:** Prevenar 13 is currently available

VARICELLA ZOSTER VACCINE

- **GSK:** VARILRIX is currently available
- **MSD:** VARIVAX is currently available
- **MSD:** Limited supplies of ZOSTAVAX are currently available. 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:** Supply of Boostrix-IPV is currently available

MMR

- **MSD:** MMRvaxPro is currently available
- **GSK:** Limited supplies of Priorix are currently available. Supplies for the national immunisation programme are unaffected

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 <http://bit.ly/OFKit>
- weblink 2 <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>
- weblink 3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-mumps-and-rubella-mmr-letter-for-parents-and-form-for-oral-fluid-swab>
- weblink 4 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan>
- weblink 5 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-clusters-of-pneumococcal-disease-in-closed-settings>
- weblink 6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pneumococcal-vaccination-guidance-for-health-professionals>
- weblink 7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-advice-on-the-pneumococcal-vaccination-programme-for-people-aged-65-years-and-older>
- weblink 8 http://phenet.phe.gov.uk/Resources/duty-doctors/Documents/infant_protocal_version21%2c0.pdf
- weblink 9 <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/news/517/interrupted-vaccination-schedules-general-principles-for-travel-health-professional>
- weblink 10 <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Scovid19promotingimmunisationsocialmediacards>
- weblink 11 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-307-april-2020-world-immunization-week>
- weblink 12 <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/nhs-resources-facilities/resources/>
- weblink 13 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-303-december-2019-pcv-special-edition>
- weblink 14 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-the-green-book-chapter-24>
- weblink 15 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-293-april-2019>
- weblink 16 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/implementing-the-falsified-medicines-directive-safety-features>
- weblink 17 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fmd-guidance-for-recipients-of-phe-supplied-vaccines>
- weblink 18 <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/Help-Guides.aspx>
- weblink 19 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/herpes-zoster-shingles-immunisation-programme-2019-to-2020-evaluation-reports>
- weblink 20 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pneumococcal-the-green-book-chapter-25>