



BULLETIN 3

Introduction

This third Bulletin contains revised recommendations regarding a change to the dosage **PANDEMRIX** for children as agreed at the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) meeting on 26th November as well as an update on other key issues. (All Bulletins are also available at www.immunisation.ie and the second Bulletin concerning the priority groups requiring a second dose of **CELVAPAN** was issued to HSE staff on 13th November)

Change to dosage

The European Medicines Agency and the Irish Medicines Board have recommended the changes to the dosage of **PANDEMRIX (GSK)** for children following the evaluation of new data from GSK

Dosage of PANDEMRIX vaccine	
Age	Dosage
6 months to 9 years (up to 10 th birthday)	0.25ml
Adults and children aged 10 years and older	0.5ml

What about children aged 10-12 years (up to 13th birthday) who have already received one dose (0.25ml) of Pandemrix?

These children will require a second dose (0.25 ml) of Pandemrix at least three weeks after the first.

There is no change to the dosage for **CELVAPAN**

Everyone vaccinated with **CELVAPAN** requires two doses (0.5ml) at least three weeks apart

Number of doses	PANDEMRIX	CELVAPAN
Children 6 months to 9 years (up to 10 th birthday)	2 doses	2 doses
All those 10 years and over who are immunocompromised (due to disease or on immunosuppressive treatment)	2 doses	2 doses
All those 10 years and over (including HCWs) who are NOT immunocompromised	1 dose	2 doses
Pregnant women and up to 6 weeks post partum	1 dose	2 doses

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When should the second dose be given?

Priority for the second dose of pandemic vaccine should be given to the following priority groups

	Priority Groups	At a later date (to be agreed)
PANDEMRIX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children aged 6 months to 9 years in the medically at risk groups (up to 10th birthday)• All those 10 years and over who are immunocompromised	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy children aged 6 months to 9 years
CELVAPAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children aged 6 months to 9 years in the medically at risk groups (up to 10th birthday)• All those 10 years and over who are immunocompromised• Pregnant women and up to 6 weeks post partum• All those with cystic fibrosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All others

All others who require a second dose of pandemic vaccine (including healthy children aged 6 months to 9 years) will be called at a later date to be agreed.

No appointments should be given to those in this group.

Vaccine distribution

So far over 1 million doses of pandemic vaccine have been distributed (800,000 doses of Pandemrix and 260,000 doses of Celvapan) to GPs, MVCs, hospitals and other sites. The next Bulletin will contain more detailed information about vaccine distribution

To maximise vaccine usage all those requiring pandemic vaccine should now be given PANDEMRIX as

- **Most will only need one dose**
- **Children under 10 years of age only require a half dose**

Vaccination of Priority Groups

- **Children**
 - Healthy children from 6 months to 18 years are now being vaccinated as the rates of infection are highest in this age group. (see the recent statement from the Faculty of Paediatrics at www.rcpi.ie/News/Pages/PandemicFluVaccinesforChildrenandAdolescents.aspx)
 - Parents of children **aged 6 months to under 5 years** have been sent letters to attend the mass vaccination clinics (MVCs).
 - Pandemic vaccine is not approved for use in babies under 6 months. However, these babies are at high risk of complications and hospitalisation if they develop Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 flu. To protect this group NPHET has approved the “cocooning” strategy i.e. the vaccination of the **household**

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contacts of babies under 6 months. Parents of children in this group will be sent letters to attend the MVCs.

- Vaccination of children aged 5-18 years will start from 30th November. Depending on the school size this will either take place in the school or MVC subject to local arrangements.
- **Those aged 65 and over**
 - This group are being vaccinated as they are more at risk of complications
 - Invitations will be issued by letter for **people of 65 years and over** from next week to make an appointment to attend a HSE site for vaccination
 - Special arrangements will be made for those who are unable to access the HSE sites (e.g. in residential care or housebound) either through their GP or via the HSE. Additional vaccine for this group may be ordered though the **HSE National Cold Chain Service** in the usual way, by Fax 01 463 7788, email vaccines@udd.ie or phone 01 463 7770.
- **Health care workers**
 - This group are being vaccinated to protect themselves, their families and their vulnerable patients
 - Vaccination of Health Care Workers has commenced through the Occupational Health Departments of acute hospitals and private hospitals. Where GPs, their staff and other non HSE health care workers are unable to provide vaccination themselves they can make an appointment to attend the MVC. Appointments can be made on www.swineflu.ie
- **Pregnancy**
 - This group are being vaccinated as they have high rates of infection and are more at risk of complications
 - There is no contraindication to the vaccination of pregnant women in the first 14 weeks gestation. These women should receive pandemic vaccine if they are in another risk group. See the statement from the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists at <http://www.rcpi.ie/Faculties/Pages/ObstetriciansandGynaecologists.aspx>

What code should be entered for post partum women?

These should be coded in the pregnancy sub group (b)

What batch number should be recorded for Pandemrix?

Pandemrix vaccine requires reconstitution. There are separate batch numbers on the antigen and the adjuvant but the batch number that should be recorded is the one on the box as this refers to the reconstituted vaccine.

All vaccines should be stored in their original packaging

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Vaccination and home address

We would like to take this opportunity to remind vaccinators that there are no geographical barriers to vaccination. Anyone can attend any clinic of their choice provided they fall into one of the priority groups above

Multi-dose vials

To ensure that best practice is maintained in relation to infection control and that there is no risk of nosocomial infection please ensure that all staff adhere to the procedures set out in the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Vaccination Guidelines (Incorporating Clinical and Administration Guidelines) and in the Frequently asked questions for healthcare professionals.

Vaccine recall in Canada

One batch of GSK pandemic vaccine (Arepanrix) has been recalled in Canada due to a suspected increase in reporting of anaphylaxis. The Irish Medicines Board is monitoring this situation. Arepanrix is not in use in Ireland and the number of reports of anaphylaxis received throughout the EU remains in line with the broadly accepted frequency estimates of vaccine induced anaphylaxis.

National Immunisation Advisory Committee - Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 chapter

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee has published a new chapter of the Immunisation Guidelines Chapter 10a Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 which is available on Royal College of Physicians of Ireland website

<http://www.rcpi.ie/collegestructure/Pages/Immunisation%20Guidelines%20for%20Ireland%202008.aspx>

and also on the National Immunisation website

http://www.immunisation.ie/en/Downloads/NIACGuidelines/PDFFile_16263_en.pdf

More information

The updated version of the FAQs is available at

<http://www.immunisation.ie/en/HealthcareProfessionals/PandemicCampaign2009/>