



in this issue...

- **FAQs – 1 November 2005 schedule**
- **1 November 2005 immunisation schedule**
- **Childhood Pneumococcal vaccine program**
- **PHAA Immunisation Conference**
- **Updating your clinical details?**
- **Translated immunisation fact sheets**
- **New and improved resources**
- **Influenza and pneumococcal vaccine stock on the web**
- **Immunisation schedule for non-Indigenous Australian children**

FAQs – 1 November 2005 schedule

Q. How do we vaccinate travellers for polio?

A. Travellers to countries where polio is endemic (<http://www.who.int/ith/en/>) will require an assessment of their previous polio vaccination and if a booster dose is required, this will need to be purchased privately. Polio vaccine can be administered as either OPV or Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV/IPOL). Monovalent IPV is to be administered by sub cutaneous injection.

Q. If a child started with OPV vaccine can they change to IPV to complete the course?

A. Yes, OPV and IPV are interchangeable. A child who has commenced a polio vaccine course with OPV will transfer to Infanrix IPV vaccine for their next scheduled dose.

Q. What polio vaccine do we give a child who has never been vaccinated and is over 8 years of age?

A. IPV is the recommended vaccine supplied for an unvaccinated child over 8 years of age. 4 doses are required at 1 monthly intervals to complete the course.

Q. Who is eligible for the free varicella vaccine?

A. A child must have turned 18 months old on or after 1 November 2005 to be eligible for the free varicella vaccine. This means their date of birth must fall on or after 1 May 2004. In 2006 the varicella vaccine will be available for Year 7 students in a school based program who have not previously had chickenpox or the vaccine.

Q. If a child has received a dose of Varicella vaccine between the age of 12 months and 18 months, do they need a second dose?

A. No. No additional dose is recommended for children who received varicella vaccine between the ages of 12 and 18 months.

Q. Can a mother immunise their 18-month-old child against chickenpox even though the mother is pregnant and tests have shown her to be non-immune?

A. Yes. A non-immune pregnant household contact is not a contraindication to vaccination of another healthy child or adult in the same household, as the risk of transmission and infection to the unborn is extremely low. At present there have been no documented cases of transmission.

Q. How much Varilrix vaccine should I order?

A. The amount of Varilrix vaccine needed by an immunisation provider is ¼ of the requirement needed for Infanrix IPV that your centre would order.

Merry Christmas to all immunisation providers



Have a safe and relaxing festive season to end 2005.

For further information on the Immunisation Program please contact:

Postal Address:

Immunisation Program,
17/120 Spencer Street,
Melbourne 3000

Phone: 1300 882 008

Fax: 03 9637 4653

or 03 9637 4186

Email: immunisation@dhs.vic.gov.au

www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

1 November 2005 Immunisation schedule

A successful implementation of the updated childhood immunisation schedule commenced on 1 November 2005. The schedule introduces inactivated polio vaccine in combination with diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (**Infanrix IPV®**) for infants at 2, 4 and 6 months of age and children at 4 years of age.

Oral polio vaccine (OPV) and Infanrix (DTPa) have been ceased and removed from the National Immunisation Program schedule and remaining doses are to be discarded into biohazard receptacles (eg. sharps bins). This action is important to avoid accidental administration of incorrect vaccines to children. All other scheduled vaccines remain unchanged and are administered as previously required according to the National Immunisation Program.

The varicella (chickenpox) vaccine (**Varilrix®**) is administered to children turning 18 months of age after 1 November 2005. Children born on or after 1 May 2004 are eligible to receive the varicella dose for free on or shortly after their 18-month-old birthday. Students who will be in Year 7 of secondary school in 2006 will be offered a catch-up dose of varicella vaccine. Local councils will be visiting secondary schools to offer the varicella vaccine to any child who has not had chickenpox or who has not previously been vaccinated for varicella.

Childhood Pneumococcal vaccine program

The childhood pneumococcal vaccine, 7vPCV (**Prevenar®**) is scheduled at 2, 4 and 6 months of age for all infants on the National Immunisation Program. The schedule commenced on 1 January 2005. A catch-up program for Prevenar vaccine is underway for children born on or after 1 January 2003. **The catch-up Prevenar vaccine program ends 31 December 2005. After this date only children born after 1 January 2005 and are not yet 2 years of age will be eligible for free Prevenar vaccination.** Pneumococcal vaccine is not considered necessary for low-risk children 2 years of age and over.

The number of doses of Prevenar required will depend on the age of the child:

- 2 – 6 months = 3 doses
- 7 – 17 months = 2 doses
- 18+ months = 1 dose

Please note that if the child is still 6 months old and not yet 7 months by the anniversary of their birth date, then 3 Prevenar vaccines are required at 1 monthly intervals. If the child is still 17 months old and not yet 18 months old by the anniversary of their birth date, then 2 doses are required.

Children with an underlying medical risk factor that predisposes them to invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) (*refer to the list on page 227 of the Australian Immunisation Handbook 8th Edition*) should receive an additional (fourth) dose of 7vPCV at 12 months of age and a booster dose of 23vPPV at 4 to 5 years of age. This booster dose vaccine schedule is based on a lower immune response to some serotypes in the 7vPCV for children with underlying medical conditions and also their continuing susceptibility to IPD as they get older due to a higher range of serotypes not found in 7vPCV.

PHAA Immunisation Conference

The Call for Papers for the immunisation conference is now available on the PHAA website www.phaa.net.au.

Successes in Immunisation

PHAA 10th National / 2nd Asia Pacific Vaccine Preventable Diseases Conference.

30 July to 1 August 2006

Sydney

Updating your clinic details?

If you are notifying the immunisation program about a change of address or other contact details, please let us know if you may also be on other contact lists such as:

- Yellow Fever approved clinic
- Q Fever vaccine administrator
- BCG approved administrator

These lists can be updated at the same time for accuracy.

New and improved resources

With the change to the immunisation schedule from 1 November 2005, some fact sheets have been updated. All immunisation fact sheets have been changed to a DL brochure size in order to be more compact for display purposes and distribution.

The brochures for poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis have been updated to reflect the use of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and the combination DTPa IPV vaccine. The varicella brochure reflects the schedule recommendations, as does the National Immunisation Program schedule brochure.

For local councils, the secondary school cards now include the varicella consent card and common reactions post vaccination 'tear-off' pad.

The Pre-immunisation checklist pad and the Common reactions to immunisation pad have also been updated to remove oral polio vaccine and represent the new DTPa IPV combination vaccine for infants and children.

A FREE exhibition celebrating A world without Polio...

Rotary's centenary gift to
children everywhere

Daley Art Gallery
Charles Street, Kew
December 2005 – February 2006
10am – 4pm daily

Translated immunisation fact sheets

The immunisation web site provides translated fact sheets in 19 languages. These fact sheets can be downloaded to assist immunisation providers with informed consent. The secondary school consent cards for local councils are also available for downloading in translated languages.

The translations are available on the immunisation web site at: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/language.htm>

Influenza and pneumococcal vaccine stock on the web

A new innovation to the immunisation web site is the opportunity for immunisation providers to see their influenza and pneumococcal vaccine orders for Autumn 2006 on the web. To check your vaccine back order is ready for distribution in late February 2006 (previously faxed/emailed to the immunisation program) please follow the tips provided:

Tips to check your vaccine stock:

- Check the website at: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/general.htm>
- Select *Vaccine stock order* link
- Search for your medical centre/council using your DHS/CSL account number (listed in numerical order in the first column)
- If you do not know the DHS/CSL account number of the medical centre, please call the immunisation program on 1300 882 008
- Identify the quantity of influenza and pneumococcal (Pneumovax 23) vaccine (supplied as packs of 10) and the date the vaccine was ordered.

This will give your medical centre/council the confidence to know your influenza and pneumococcal vaccine order has been received and is waiting for delivery in late February 2006.



Seasons Greetings

Immunisation schedule for non-Indigenous Australian children*

Source Medical Observer 21 October 2005

AGE	VIC	NSW	ACT	QLD	TAS	SA	NT	WA
Birth	H-B-Vax II (paediatric)	H-B-Vax II (paediatric)	H-B-Vax II (paediatric)	H-B-Vax II (paediatric)	H-B-Vax II (paediatric)	H-B-Vax II (paediatric)	Enerix B	H-B-Vax II (paediatric)
2 months	Infanrix IPV Comvax Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar	Quadracel Comvax Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar	Infanrix IPV Comvax Prevenar	Infanrix Penta PedvaxHIB Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar
4 months	Infanrix IPV Comvax Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar	Quadracel Comvax Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar	Infanrix IPV Comvax Prevenar	Infanrix Penta PedvaxHIB Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar
6 months	Infanrix IPV Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar	Quadracel Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar	Infanrix IPV Prevenar	Infanrix Penta Prevenar	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar
12 months	Comvax Priorix NeisVac-C	Hiberix Priorix Meningitec	Hiberix Priorix Meningitec	Comvax Priorix Meningitec	Hiberix/PedvaxHIB Priorix Meningitec/Menjugate/ NeisVac-C	Comvax Priorix NeisVac-C/ Menjugate	PedvaxHIB Priorix Menjugate/ NeisVac-C	PedvaxHIB Priorix NeisVac-C
18 months	Varilrix	Varilrix	Varilrix	Varivax/Varilrix	Varivax/Varilrix	Varivax/Varilrix	Varilrix	Varilrix
4 years	Priorix Infanrix IPV	Priorix Infanrix IPV	Priorix Infanrix IPV	Priorix Quadracel	Priorix Infanrix IPV/Quadracel	Priorix Infanrix IPV	Priorix Infanrix IPV	Priorix Infanrix IPV
12/13 years	H-B-Vax II (adult) Varilrix	H-B-Vax II (adult) Varilrix	H-B-Vax II (adult) Varilrix	H-B-Vax II (adult) Varivax/Varilrix	H-B-Vax II (adult) Varivax/Varilrix	H-B-Vax II (adult) Varivax/Varilrix Boostrix	Varilrix Boostrix	H-B-Vax II (adult) Varilrix Boostrix
15 years	Boostrix	Boostrix	Boostrix	Boostrix	Boostrix	Boostrix	Boostrix	Boostrix

*Indigenous children living in Victoria receive the same schedule of vaccines as non-Indigenous Victorian children. Indigenous children in central, northern and Western Australia also require Hepatitis A vaccination (**Vaqta**) at 12 and 18 months of age and **Pneumovax 23** vaccine at 18 months of age. Catch-up vaccination for these children will occur if they return to their state/territory of origin.

LEGEND: H-B-Vax II/Enerix B = **Hep B**; COMVAX = **Hib/HepB**; Infanrix IPV/Quadracel = **DTPa/IPV**;

Infanrix Penta = **DTPa/IPV/HepB**; Infanrix Hexa = **DTPa/IPV/HepB/Hib**; Prevenar = **7vPCV**; Priorix = **MMR**;

Meningitec/NeisVac-C/Menjugate = **Meningococcal C**; Varilrix/Varivax = **Varicella**; Boostrix = **dTpa**; Hiberix/PedvaxHIB = **Hib**