

19th October 2009

IMPORTANT NEWS - Delivery of Pandemic Vaccine

Dear Doctor

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Pandemic Vaccination Programme for patients aged over 6 months and under 65 years who are in the “at risk” groups (as overleaf). This scheduled vaccine delivery contains pandemic vaccine, Pandemrix (GSK). As quantities of vaccine are limited and to ensure that vaccine is delivered to all participating GPs you have been allocated a proportion of your total vaccine requirements.

Pandemrix consists of two vials – an antigen and an adjuvant which require reconstitution. When reconstituted the multidose vial contains 10 adult doses and vaccine must be used within **24** hours of opening. Mixing instructions as well as other details about the vaccine are included with your vaccine delivery. Please read these carefully as it is important that vaccine wastage is minimised.

Over the next few days you will also receive

- Supplies of 5ml and 1ml syringes and needles
- Details of an additional vaccine delivery to take place in two weeks time.
- Promotional information leaflets and posters for those “at-risk”
- Promotional information leaflets for pregnant women
- Frequently Asked Questions for Healthcare professionals
- Patient fact sheets to be given to patients who present for vaccination (and translations in 9 languages)
- Laminated sheet outlining the “at-risk” groups
- Laminated sheet outlining vaccine reconstitution for Pandemrix
- A book of modified STC forms for vaccine returns

In addition these materials and further information in relation to the vaccine (e.g. Summary of Product Characteristics etc) will be posted on our website www.immunisation.ie

You should fax/email an order for any additional pandemic vaccine you require to the HSE National Cold Chain Service specifying the name of the vaccine and the number of DOSES you require.

Please contact this office if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely



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As per the recommendations of the Pandemic Influenza Expert Group and the National Immunisation Advisory Committee those at risk include

- All pregnant women in the 2nd and 3rd trimester (of 14 weeks gestation and over) and those in the first 6 week postpartum period
- Pregnant women in the 1st trimester (less than 14 weeks gestation) who are also in another risk group as outlined below

AND

Anyone aged over 6 months and under 65 years with

- Chronic respiratory disease (including asthma and cystic fibrosis)
- Chronic heart disease
- Chronic renal disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic neurological disease
- Congenital or acquired immunodeficiency and their household contacts
- Diabetes mellitus
- Haemoglobinopathies
- Morbid obesity (BMI ≥ 40)