



BULLETIN 1

Introduction

This is the first Bulletin for all involved in the pandemic vaccination programme and provides important information on a number of key issues.

Number of doses of pandemic vaccine

The following recommendations regarding the dosage of Pandemrix vaccine have been made by the National Public Health Emergency Team following current advice from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee

Number of doses of PANDEMRIX Vaccine	
Number of doses	Pandemrix
Children 6 months to 12 years	2 doses
All those 13 years and over who are immunocompromised*	2 doses
All those 13 years and over (including HCWs) who are NOT immunocompromised	1 dose
Pregnant women and up to 6 weeks post partum	1 dose

**due to disease or on immunosuppressive treatment*

All those who require a 2nd dose of Pandemrix should be offered this at least three weeks after the 1st dose

Everyone vaccinated with **CELVAPAN** requires two doses at least three weeks apart (as there is no similar data for this vaccine as yet)

Priority for the 2nd dose of Celvapan should be given to

- at risk children aged 6 months to 12 years
- those 13 years and over who are immunocompromised

REMEMBER the childhood dosage differs depending on which vaccine is given

Vaccine Name	Adult dose	6 months up to 13 years
Celvapan	0.5mls	0.5mls
Pandemrix	0.5mls	0.25mls

IMPORTANT

The childhood vaccine dosage for Celvapan has been recommended by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee and supersedes that recommended in the Summary of Product Characteristics and the Patient Information Leaflet

The age group for the childhood dose of Pandemrix has been recommended by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee and supersedes that recommended in the Summary of Product Characteristics and the Patient Information Leaflet

Vaccine distribution

All GP sites have now received at least one delivery of pandemic vaccine. There were a number of sites who received their vaccine deliveries later than expected. This was due to a combination of factors and we wish to apologise for any inconvenience caused.

If you need more vaccine please order this in the usual way through the HSE National Cold Chain Service

Fax 01 463 7788, email vaccines@udd.ie or phone 01 463 7770

Please note that due to limited vaccine supplies each GP practice will be allocated a vaccine quota. We will then be able to supply vaccine to target other priority groups at the HSE clinics

So far over 400,000 doses of Pandemrix and 160,000 doses of Celvapan have been distributed to GP and HSE delivery sites.

Residents of Disability Units

There have been a number of outbreaks of Pandemic H1N1 (2009) influenza in residents of disability units. **All residents of disability units should be offered pandemic vaccine** regardless of whether they are in one of the medically at risk groups

Mass Vaccination Clinics (MVCs)

These clinics have been supplied with Celvapan (Baxter) vaccine as this comes in boxes of 200 doses and must be used within 3 hours. This vaccine does not contain egg and so is suitable for those with a history of a previous anaphylactic reaction to chicken eggs. Both pandemic vaccines will be supplied to MVCs as we receive more stocks.

Other Priority Groups

The next priority groups are children under 18 years of age, health care workers and adults 65 years of age and older and it is hoped to offer these groups one dose of vaccine before the end of 2009. These groups will be offered vaccine through the HSE Mass Vaccination Clinics, occupational health services and schools.

National Pandemic Vaccination Programme

Next Steps

Pandemic vaccine will be offered to **children from 6 months of age to less than 5 years of age** and from **November 11th** letters will be sent to parents of yearly cohorts of these children asking them to make an appointment to attend the MVCs – either online, through a telephone booking service or to turn up at the clinic. Initially we will start with children born between November 2004 and November 2005.

Pandemic vaccination for **health care workers** commenced from **November 9th** through occupational health departments and initially each acute hospital has been allocated a supply of Pandemrix. As more vaccine becomes available this will be distributed for other health care workers.

The exact timings for further groups will be determined by vaccine uptake in previous priority groups and vaccine availability.

Further updates will be sent to you on a regular basis.

For more information please see

www.immunisation.ie/en/HealthcareProfessionals/PandemicCampaign2009/