

## BULLETIN 5

### Introduction

This fifth Bulletin contains important information regarding pandemic vaccines and a review of the huge amount achieved to date. .

### PANDEMRIX

- Pandemrix is the vaccine of first choice to be used in the vaccination programme
- All those requiring pandemic vaccine should be given **PANDEMRIX** (unless they have an egg allergy)
- Most will only need one dose
- Children under 10 years of age only require ONE half adult dose
- A second dose at least three weeks after the first dose is only required for children & adults who are immunosuppressed

### CELVAPAN

- Celvapan vaccine should now be used only when a second dose of Celvapan is required or where the person has an egg allergy.
- Once Celvapan has reached room temperature it must not be returned to the fridge but used within 3 hours or discarded.
- Everyone who is given Celvapan requires 2 doses.
  - Priority for the second dose should be given to
    - Children aged 6 months to 9 years in the medically at risk groups (up to 10<sup>th</sup> birthday)
    - All those 10 years and over who are immunosuppressed
    - Pregnant women and up to 6 weeks post partum
    - All those with cystic fibrosis

A decision about when to call those not in a priority group for their second dose will be made early in 2010

### Co-administration with childhood vaccines

Pandemic vaccines can be given at the same time as childhood vaccines, but in separate limbs. It is important that babies continue to receive their childhood vaccines at the scheduled time.

## National Pandemic Vaccination Programme

### Second dose of pandemic vaccine

Pandemic vaccines are not interchangeable so the second dose of vaccine must be the same brand as the first dose.

To minimise any error

- Keep the two vaccines in different places in the vaccine clinic to avoid giving incorrect vaccine as 2<sup>nd</sup> dose or mixing one with the other.
- Confirm which vaccine was given as the first dose
- Double check that the correct vaccine is being administered as the second dose.

If a different vaccine is given as the second dose this is considered a medication error and should be reported to the Irish Medicines Board (IMB).

### What is the recommendation if someone receives Pandemrix as a second vaccine having had Celvapan as a first dose?

No studies have been carried out regarding the interchangeability of these vaccines. The IMB recommends that if an immunosuppressed patient receives a first dose of Celvapan and a second dose of Pandemrix then they should receive a second dose of Pandemrix (i.e. a third dose of pandemic vaccine) This is provided there was no reason why they should not receive a second dose of Pandemrix e.g. egg allergy, when they should receive a second dose of Celvapan),

### Additional vaccine stickers for Pandemrix

Additional vaccine stickers have been included with Pandemrix for the Mass Vaccination Clinics and school programme (to allow for up to 20 doses per vial)

**These stickers are only for use with the box of vaccine that they come with.**

**Please make sure to discard any left over stickers from the box as soon as all the vials from the relevant box have been administered (to minimise the potential for mix-up of stickers from different boxes/batch numbers)**

### Work to date and for 2010

To date pandemic vaccine is being offered to the following priority groups:

- all those aged 6 months to 64 years medically at risk
- all children aged 6 months to 18 years
- all health care workers
- all those 65 years and older
- parents and household contacts of children less than 6 months of age

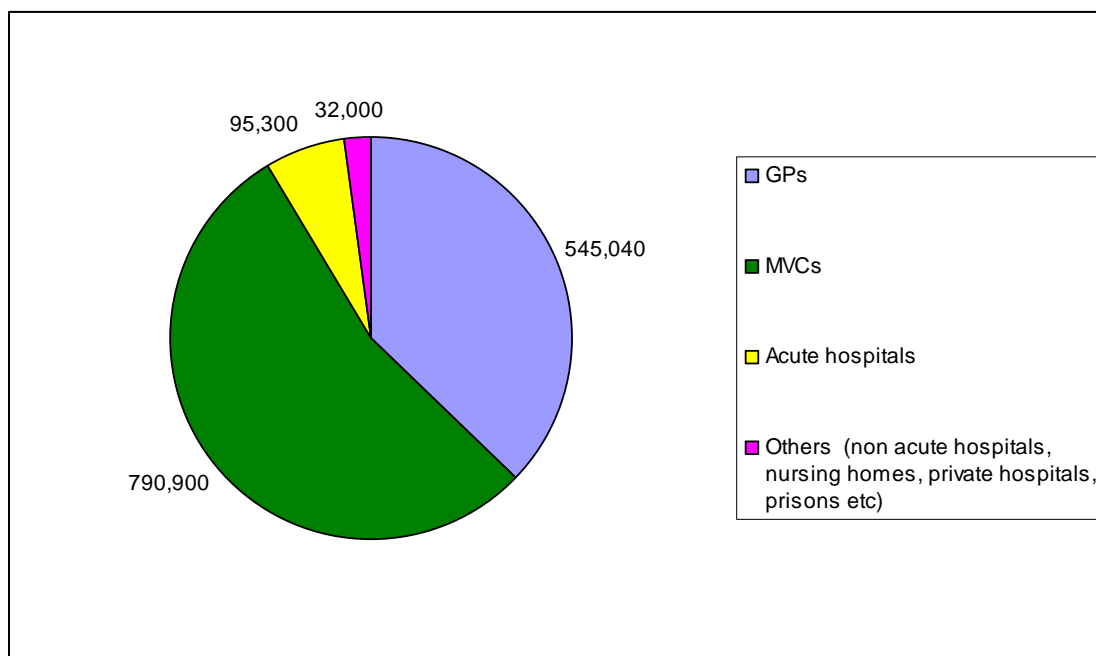
**These priority groups make up over 50% of the population (2.3 million people)**

Vaccination of school children and the other priority groups will continue in 2010 and a decision will be made about the roll out to the rest of the population in January.

## National Pandemic Vaccination Programme

### Vaccine distribution

So far almost 1.5 million doses of pandemic vaccine have been distributed (1.15 million doses of Pandemrix and 350,000 doses of Celvapan) to GPs, MVCs, hospitals and other sites as per pie chart below and there are sufficient stocks of both vaccines



### Vaccine uptake

Vaccine uptake is being collated by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) using data from the Pandemic Mass Vaccination System (PMDS) for the Mass Vaccination Clinics/Hospitals and the Primary Care Reimbursement System (PCRS for the GP returns). Although there is a delay in some of the vaccine returns being entered onto these systems we know that at least 530,000 pandemic vaccines have been administered since the programme began on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Please send vaccine returns back as quickly as possible so we can make further decisions on next steps.

**Many thanks to all of you for the huge effort and response to the challenge of providing the pandemic vaccination programme in such a short time frame**

**We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year**

**Seasons Greetings**