Dear Colleagues

Immunisation Week 2013 – thank you
Thank you for getting behind Immunisation Week this year. It is the third time that New Zealand has taken part in the World Health Organisation initiative. Participation this year was widespread with General Practices, PHOs, DHBs, Medical Officers of Health, Well Child Tamariki Ora providers, members of the public, Associate Minister of Health, and many others taking part in community activities. Media coverage was high with around 70 stories appearing online and in print.

Flu Immunisation Programme
The National Influenza Specialist Group has updated its influenza and pregnancy Frequently Asked Questions. These can be found on its websites http://www.fightflu.co.nz/information-for-pregnant-women or http://www.influenza.org.nz/?t=696.

Vaccine ordering
Please ensure that when ordering influenza vaccines that the correct order form is being used (see attached). This year’s flu immunisation programme ends 31 July.

Note that the minimum order quantities apply as follows:

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<th>February</th>
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<tr>
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Seasonal Influenza-like Illness reporting
Monitoring numbers of calls to Healthline is part of our early-warning surveillance system, and in the week ending Sunday 19 May there were slightly more calls for the broad category of influenza like illness (ILI) than in the previous week and significantly fewer calls compared to the same time last year.

Surveillance through HealthStat sentinel general practices showed slightly more consultations than for the previous week, with the level being similar to that seen at the same time last year. The number of consultations for ILI has been slowly increasing for a number of weeks now.

Meningococcal disease
With winter upon us, it is timely for a reminder that as soon as meningococcal disease is suspected in a patient, parenteral antibiotics should be immediately administered before admission to hospital if delays and assessment in hospital are likely to be more than 30 minutes. Information about the case and the treatment given should be made available to hospital staff as soon as possible.

Attending medical practitioners must immediately notify the local Medical Officer of Health of suspected cases. Notification should not await confirmation.

Vaccinations for travellers
Continuing outbreaks of measles in the UK, North and South America and Asia serve as a reminder that in addition to any travel specific vaccinations that may be required, travellers should be up to date with their routine immunisations (including measles, mumps and rubella) prior to overseas travel.
IMAC Conference
The eighth New Zealand National Immunisation Conference 2013 is coming up soon at the Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, 10-13 September 2013.

Health care professionals, researchers, scientists, policy makers and others interested in the science and service delivery of vaccines and immunisation programmes are invited to participate in the eighth New Zealand National Immunisation Conference. Visit www.imac2013.org.nz for more information on abstracts and registration.

Pharmaceutical vaccine refrigerators
Thank you for participating in the Health Benefits Limited vaccine refrigerator survey. Health Benefits Limited are currently reviewing the survey results and expect to have more information about the bulk procurement of pharmaceutical refrigerators within the next couple of months.

If you are considering purchasing a pharmaceutical refrigerator prior to the bulk procurement process, please contact your local immunisation coordinator for advice before doing so. Your immunisation coordinator will be able to advise you on the required specifications to ensure the vaccines you store are kept within the recommended temperature range of +2°C and +8°C at all times.

Whooping Cough update
New cases of pertussis continue to occur at high rates. Since the current outbreak began in August 2011 to 10 May 2013, there have been a total of 9,098 cases (confirmed, probable and suspect) and 516 hospitalisations.

From 27 April 2013 to 10 May 2013, 86 new cases were reported. The highest numbers of cases have been notified from Canterbury (22 cases) and Northland (nine cases) DHBs. All DHBs except Waitemata, Hawke’s Bay, Whanganui and South Canterbury have reported pertussis cases since 27 April 2013.

![Number of whooping cough cases (confirmed, probable and suspect) notified by week in 2011 (from week 26) - 10 May 2013, New Zealand](image)

Infants (under one year old) are the population at highest risk of serious outcomes and since the start of the outbreak have accounted for 643 cases (7 percent) and 304 of all hospitalisations (59 percent). Of the 86 cases reported in the past two weeks, six cases (7 percent) were infants.

*If you have any queries about anything in this update, please email immunisation@moh.govt.nz.*
2013 Seasonal influenza vaccine order form
(Failing to complete in full may affect the processing of your request)

TO: Healthcare Logistics  TOLL-FREE FAX: 0508 408 358

Date: ___________________________________  Healthcare Logistics Customer Number: __________________________

Surgery name: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Contact name: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Delivery address: _____________________________________________________________________________________

Contact phone: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Customer purchase order number (if applicable): _________________________________________________________________

Important key messages for Influenza 2013

FLUVAX® and FLUARIX® are the two influenza vaccines available to order this season.

- FLUARIX® is approved for use in individuals aged 6 months and over
- FLUVAX® is approved for use in individuals aged 5 years and over but should preferably not be used or used with caution in children aged 5-8

The Ministry of Health recommends FLUARIX® should not be used in children under 9 years of age.

Please estimate the total number of children in your practice who are likely to be vaccinated this season and order below (note: any children with underlying medical conditions are eligible for free vaccine).

I would like to order:

☐ DOSES for children under 9 years of age (FLUARIX® [1117594], only available in multiples of 10).

☐ DOSES for individuals 9 and over (FLUVAX® or FLUARIX® [1117616], only available in multiples of 10).

You will be supplied the doses that you commit to in writing (please remember we cannot split boxes).

Influenza chilly bins cannot be recycled, to reduce wastage when ordering, please consider:
A medium chilly bin holds up to 80 doses; a large chilly bin holds up to 200 doses.

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NOTE: Some orders may have a temperature logging device included with the shipment. Do not be concerned if your shipment does not contain a temperature logging device.

Refund for unused stock

A refund will be available for a total of 10 units of unused stock of either FLUVAX® and FLUARIX®, from any one account. Unused stock must be returned by August 31st, 2013 to be refunded. Thereafter surgeries should contact their immunisation coordinator for information on safe disposal.

For any further information on ordering, please phone Healthcare Logistics Customer Services 0508 425 358.

For online ordering go to www.hcinline.co.nz