

Immunisation Program Update

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From the manager

It's been another successful year for us delivering on our strategic objectives and collaborating with our stakeholders to deliver the National Immunisation Program (NIP) throughout Queensland.

By the end of 2018 we will have distributed almost 2.5million doses of NIP vaccines. Delivered through over 1,800 immunisation providers, these vaccines have contributed greatly to protecting Queenslanders from life-threatening vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, pertussis, meningitis, influenza and pneumococcus.

Despite major changes to the NIP schedule this year, Australian Immunisation Register quarterly reports have revealed Queensland childhood immunisation rates have been maintained at high levels and the rising trend for immunisation coverage rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children has continued.

We are grateful for the support provided by our partners and our immunisation providers and we look forward to working with all our stakeholders in 2019.

On behalf of my colleagues in the Communicable Diseases Branch Immunisation Program, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Karen Peterson
Manager, Immunisation Program

In this issue

Launch of suite of immunisation online resources.....	2
Prepare for storm season.....	4
Meningococcal ACWY adolescent vaccination program.....	5
Influenza vaccine stock.....	5
Dose number dilemmas.....	6
HPV vaccination records have moved to AIR.....	6
HPV register and whooping cough vaccine for pregnant women consent forms.....	7
Christmas closure.....	8



Launch of suite of immunisation online courses

The Immunisation Program in collaboration with the Cunningham Centre has launched a suite of four comprehensive online courses for Queensland immunisation providers.



Immunisation eLearning

✓ Self-paced ✓ Easy access ✓ Free

The courses are free of charge and can be accessed through the Clinical Skills Development Service website at <http://www.csds.qld.edu.au>. Click on 'Browse Courses', then type 'immunisation' into the search field to locate the immunisation courses.

The suite consists of the following four courses:

- Course 1: Vaccine administration
- Course 2: Vaccine management
- Course 3: Immunisation data – Recording and reporting
- Course 4: Catch-up vaccinations.

Catering for different roles and skill levels

The free, high-quality online courses are easy to access, self-paced and interactive. The online courses are intended to supplement the face-to-face training and education sessions provided by public health units across Queensland. They are for general education purposes only and do not lead to authorisation as an Immunisation Program Nurse.

To address the challenge of catering for a wide range of professional roles and skill levels, three pathways for clinical, administrative and community-based health professionals have been designed in each course. Participants can choose the pathway most suited to their role making the course relevant and suitable for clinicians and non-clinical staff involved in supporting roles such as practice managers or receptionists. Upon completion of each course, a Certificate of Completion and CPD hours are awarded.

Immunisation training videos

As part of the project, six immunisation training videos have been developed on the topics of how to administer vaccines, how to respond to vaccine-hesitant patients, how to set up a purpose-built vaccine refrigerator and how to pack an esky with vaccines for outreach clinics.

Visit <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/vaccine-service-providers> and click on 'Online courses for immunisation service providers' to access the training videos as well as the immunisation course links and flyers.

[Return to contents](#)

Overview of immunisation online courses

Course 1 Vaccine administration (foundation course)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccine components • Pre-/post-vaccination • Vaccine development & safety • Vaccines for special groups • Vaccine preparation/ administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccine hesitancy • Vaccine importance • Immune system • NIP • AEFI
Course 2 Vaccine management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of vaccine management • Cold chain breach • Vaccine storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordering/receiving vaccines • Equipment for/monitoring of cold chain
Course 3 Immunisation data – recording and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical exemptions for immunisation • Checking immunisation data on AIR • Submitting immunisation data to AIR • Troubleshooting common errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIR resources • Immunisation documentation and reporting requirements
Course 4 Catch-up vaccinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due/overdue rules • Planning catch-ups 	

Visit www.csds.qld.edu.au and search for 'immunisation'

Queensland Government

For any questions or feedback, please email the project at immunisation@health.qld.gov.au

[Return to contents](#)

Preparing for storm season

The summer storm season inevitably brings with it the risk of power failures. Most purpose-built vaccine refrigerators will only maintain an adequate temperature for a maximum 20 minutes without power, especially if they have a glass door. If you lose power, you may need to urgently transfer vaccines into alternative storage such as a cooler.

Refer to the *National Vaccine Storage Guidelines* – Section 8 **Management of power failure** to review your processes and be ready for any emergency.



Be prepared! Do you have the following ready for use:

- A back-up power source? If you have back-up power, has it been tested recently for readiness?
- Appropriate cooler box/es large enough to store all your vaccines?
- A sufficient number of ice bricks with which to chill the cooler box?
- A freezer where the ice bricks can be stored ready for use?
- Sufficient packing material, such as polystyrene chips or bubble-wrap to separate the vaccines from ice bricks, paper to wrap the ice bricks?
- A digital minimum/maximum thermometer for each cooler box? This must be placed in a vaccine packet/box with the vaccines.
- An easy to follow, written procedure for staff when needed? Have you completed a trial run so all staff who might need to move the vaccines know how to pack vaccines in a cooler in an emergency?

If your vaccine refrigerator records temperatures outside the range +2°C to +8°C, this indicates a cold chain breach. Report all cold chain breaches to the Immunisation Program by phone on 3328 9888 between the hours of 8am to 4pm as soon as possible after the breach occurs.

PLEASE NOTE: The Immunisation Program is closed for the Christmas and New Year holiday period from midday Christmas Eve through to 8am Wednesday 2 January 2019.

If you experience a cold chain breach during this time, quarantine the affected vaccine and call to report it on 2 January. Please do not discard any government-funded vaccine until you receive advice from the Public Health Unit. This will be after 2 January 2019.

[Return to contents](#)

Meningococcal ACWY adolescent vaccination program

The meningococcal ACWY vaccine will be funded through the National Immunisation Program for adolescents aged 15 to 19 years from April 2019.

Queensland Health will continue to provide funded meningococcal ACWY vaccine in January, February and March 2019 for adolescents aged 15 to 19 years.

Adolescents in Year 10 will continue to be offered meningococcal ACWY vaccine through the School Immunisation Program and will be eligible for catch-up if they missed the vaccination at school.



Influenza vaccine – expiry dates

Check expiry dates on influenza vaccines provided through the National Immunisation Program. Vaccines can be used until they reach their expiry date.

- Only discard vaccines on their specific expiry date, e.g. 19/01/2019.
- Expiry dates with only the month indicated, e.g. 11/2018, should be discarded on the last day of that month.

Vaccines supplied during the 2018 influenza season have varying expiry dates. Check this table for details:

Vaccine brand	Expiry date/s to look for
<i>Fluzone™</i>	16/11/2018 and 28/11/2018
<i>Fluad™</i>	30/11/2018 and 31/12/2018
<i>FluQuadri Junior™</i>	19/01/2019
<i>FluQuadri™</i>	12/01/2019 and 28/02/2019
<i>Fluarix Tetra™</i>	28/02/2019
<i>Afluria Quad™</i>	28/02/2019

[Return to contents](#)

Dose number dilemmas

It is important that the correct vaccine dose number is reported to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). This is especially important for children and adolescents whose record may show as overdue if there is an error with the dose number reported to AIR.

Vaccine dose numbers for children receiving their 4-year-old vaccinations should follow the guide below:

Age at vaccination	Child's date of birth	
	Born before 01/10/2014 Record dose number as	Born on or after 01/10/2014 Record dose number as
18 months DTPa <i>(Infanrix™ or Tripacel™)</i>	Not applicable	DOSE 4
4 years DTPa/IPV <i>(Infanrix/IPV™ or Quadrace™)</i>	DOSE 4	DOSE 5

HPV vaccination records have moved to AIR

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine doses can now be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). This makes it easier for healthcare providers to find information about their patient's HPV vaccinations.

The AIR is a national register that records all vaccinations given to people of all ages in Australia, including through school vaccination programs.

The HPV vaccine is funded under Australia's National Immunisation Program and usually given to school children aged 12 or 13 years. Before 10 September 2018, the National HPV Vaccination Program Register operated by the Victorian Cytology Service (VCS) Foundation kept records of HPV vaccinations. These records have been transferred to the AIR.

What the changes mean for your practice

The changes mean that all vaccination information will now be kept in one place. You can check and print the vaccination records for your patients using the AIR site. For more information about how to access the AIR site, go to the [AIR for health professionals](#) page on the Department of Human Services website.



To help with the transition, the VCS Foundation will keep accepting HPV vaccination records until 31 October 2018. From 1 November 2018, the VCS Foundation will no longer accept HPV vaccination records – you must record these on the AIR.

HPV vaccinations will now be included in AIR reports. These reports can help you identify patients attending your practice who are overdue for vaccination. The Department of Human Services website provides information on the [reports available from the AIR](#).

This change only affects where HPV vaccination information is recorded. There is no change to the National Immunisation Program schedule.

What you need to do

Record any HPV vaccinations you give on the AIR, using your practice management software or the AIR site. Make sure you have the latest version of the software, including any updates. In June 2018, the Department of Human Services sent all registered software vendors an update that included two new (optional) fields for all vaccines: school names and vaccine batch numbers. State and territory health departments are working with school-based providers to support the new reporting arrangements.

You should encourage your patients to make sure the personal details they have recorded with Medicare are up to date. The AIR uses the address and other details that they have with Medicare, and these might be different to the details they provided for the HPV Register.

Patients can update their Medicare details using their Medicare online account through [myGov](#) or using the [Express Plus Medicare mobile app](#). Patients can also choose to record their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status in their Medicare details.

More information

See [Using the AIR](#) for more information.

HPV Vaccination Register Consent Forms and Whooping Cough Vaccine for Pregnant Women Consent Forms

Please note that these forms, shown on the next page, are no longer required. If you have any of these forms in your practice, please discard them.

Details about who is receiving these vaccines should be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Remember to report all vaccinations to the AIR.

[Return to contents](#)

The image shows two forms side-by-side. The left form is the 'Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Register Consent Form' from Queensland Government. It includes sections for 'Statement about Personal Information', 'Client Details' (with fields for surname, date of birth, Medicare number, address, etc.), 'Consent', and 'Service Provider Use Only'. The right form is the 'Whooping cough vaccine program for pregnant women Data collection and consent form'. It includes sections for 'Recording the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (dTPa) vaccination for pregnant women', 'Service provider details', 'Patient details', and 'Consent'. Both forms have checkboxes for consent and fields for dates and signatures.

Christmas closure



VACCINE ORDERS

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 2018-19

The deadline to order vaccines before the holiday period is

CLOSE OF BUSINESS MONDAY 17 DECEMBER 2018

Vaccine ordering will recommence on

2 JANUARY 2019

If your practice is closed over the Christmas/New Year period please do not place an order prior to the closure. If necessary, vaccine orders up to 17 December may be increased to ensure your vaccine supply is sufficient until the New Year. Ensure your vaccine management back-up plan is in place before the holiday period commences.

[Return to contents](#)