



# IMMUNONEWS

Please copy and distribute to GPs, Practice Managers, Practice Nurses and Practice Staff

## NSW HEALTH Winter Flu Campaign

### "The Spread of Flu is Up to You"

The following is an excerpt from the NSW Department of Health. For further information go to <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/flu/index.asp>.

"Influenza, or 'flu', is in our community every winter. Learn what flu is, how it makes people sick and what you can do to stay healthy. This year, [H1N1](#) is likely to be the most dominant type of flu.

This year, pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza is likely to be the most dominant influenza strain; although other influenza strains will continue to circulate. Regardless of the strain, clinical management remains the same. A number of [resources](#) have been prepared to assist health professionals with clinical management and decision making.

While pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza results in a mild illness in most people, it can result in severe outcomes for [people at increased risk](#). [Research](#) has been conducted on the impact of H1N1.

Recommending influenza vaccination to your patients is an important preventive action. This year, both the [2010 seasonal influenza vaccine](#) and the [pandemic influenza vaccine](#) are available."

## GPNSW funding for RNs to complete the Immunisation for Registered Nurses Course

Registered nurses wishing to apply for funding to attend the College of Nursing Immunisation course **MUST** fax the following to Andrew Cramp/Dora Tomaras on 02 9239 2999 1) General Practice NSW Funding application (attached) 2) The College of Nursing RN Distance Education Enrolment Form (attached) 3) evidence of **current** Nurses and Midwives Board of NSW registration and 4) **current** First Aid Certificate or **current** CPR certification.

## "Travel immunisation for beginners" course being run by The College of Nursing.

RNs interested in this course (application form attached) should contact Jane Crozier at The College of Nursing directly. Please note this course is not funded by General Practice NSW.

## NSW Health Cold Chain Wastage

The cost of vaccine wastage due to cold chain breaches is considerable. Data (attached) on the NSW Health Cold Chain Wastage for 2008-2009 and 2009-

2010 shows that almost 17% wastage is due to fridge malfunctions and over 28% is due to human error!!!!

## National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance Launches New Website

Following many months of development, The National Centre for Immunisation Research & Surveillance has launched their new website. Visitors to the site will find a user-friendly navigation structure, **up-to-date news**, new fact sheets, **immunisation resources**, current research activities, with multiple links to other relevant sites. The new website will be maintained on a regular basis, providing visitors with relevant and interesting information. Visit [www.ncirs.edu.au](http://www.ncirs.edu.au).

## Online reporting of immunisation information to ACIR

For a list of vendors offering Medicare online reporting to ACIR go to <http://medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/business/online/vendors/claiming.jsp> and click on the link

- [Medicare online claiming functions available in software](#)

## GSK offers four grants of \$15,000 for innovation in childhood immunization

The closing date for the 2010 GSK Childhood Immunisation Awards has been extended - visit <http://www.gsk.com.au/community-involvement-immunisation-awards.aspx>

The GSK Childhood Immunisation Awards have been developed to reward innovation and share best practice in improving coverage and/or timely delivery of childhood immunisation. Applicants are asked to provide details on initiatives implemented in the past two years that have demonstrated an impact on childhood immunisation in the community. The four 2010 award categories are for initiatives that achieve:

- A significant increase in or maintenance of immunisation coverage in children 12 months to 4 years of age - coordinated by a small team (fewer than ten people)
- A significant increase in or maintenance of immunisation coverage in children 12 months to 4



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years of age - coordinated by a large team (more than ten people)

- A significant increase in or maintenance of immunisation coverage in hard to reach children and/or adolescent populations
- Improved coverage and/or timely delivery of childhood or adolescent vaccines as per the Australian National Immunisation Program schedule

Entries close Wednesday 23 June 2010 at 5.30pm AEST

## Splitting schedules (from Kath Cannings)

Three vaccines are due at 12 months (MMR, HiB & Meningococcal) and the ACIR follow-up project team has identified an ongoing issue with split scheduling. This is not recommended because parents often forget to come back within a suitable time, it places the child at increased risk of contracting disease and it is safe to have multiple vaccines at one time. A study by JC Hanna, RC Bullen and DE Andrews ("The acceptance of three simultaneous vaccine injections recommended at 12 months of age." Communicable Diseases Intelligence 2004;28,4:493-496) supports this recommendation, as the following excerpt shows:

"This study has demonstrated that non-simultaneous vaccination puts children at-risk of receiving MenCCV late, or not at all. It also confirms that it is the most recently recommended vaccine, in this case MenCCV, is the most likely to be administered separately from the other vaccines, so as to avoid more than two injections at the same time.

Vaccine providers, in particular general practitioners, need to be reassured that the available evidence indicates that these vaccines, when given simultaneously as recommended, are safe and effective. Quite simply, the most important factor influencing parents to agree to multiple injectable vaccines for their children is a confident and positive recommendation from the vaccine provider."

There is also the following quote from the catch up section of the AIH 9th ed (p 24): "A catch-up schedule may require multiple vaccinations at a visit. Give all the due vaccines at the same visit - do not defer. See Section 1.4.9 for procedures for administering multiple injections at the same visit."

## Information for GPs regarding school based vaccination programs

NSW Health provides school-based vaccination services for all the vaccines recommended for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

In 2010, hepatitis B, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis and varicella vaccines will be offered to Year 7 students. Students who miss out on the vaccines at school are eligible for free vaccine from their local service provider while they are in year 7 (GP or Community Health Centre). Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine will also be offered to Year 10 students in 2010.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will be offered to female students in years 7 in 2010.

The local Public Health Units conducting the Program will provide catch-up vaccination for students who have commenced the school program and are absent on the day of the school clinic.

Students who have previously commenced a course of HPV vaccine with their local doctor are required to complete this course with their local doctor.

Students who have missed out on vaccination at school are eligible for free vaccine in 2010 as follows:

| Vaccine           | Missed Dose Advice  |
|-------------------|---|
| Hepatitis B       | Missed dose 1 = Give 3 Paediatric doses at GP <b>Year 7 students only</b>   |
|                   | Missed dose 2 = Give 2 Paediatric doses at GP <b>Year 7 students only</b>   |
| dTpa (Boostrix)   | Eligible for free vaccine at GP if in <b>Year 7 or Year 10 only.</b>  |
| Meningococcal C   | Free for those aged up to 25 years who were not vaccinated as part of the National Meningococcal C Vaccination Program  |
| Varicella vaccine | Eligible for free vaccine at GP <b>Year 7 students only</b>   |
| HPV vaccine       | Female students <b>currently in Years 7 only</b> who were absent during the dose 1 clinic at school are eligible for catch-up vaccination at their GP scheduled at 0, 2 and 6 months. Students who have previously commenced a course of HPV vaccine with their local doctor. |

Manly Warringah Division of General Practice

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Funded by the Department of Health and Ageing



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## HIGH ACHIEVERS

Congratulations to the following practices who have achieved immunisation rates of 95% and over for the period ending May 2010.

Drs RB & M Croft - Narraweena  
The Medical Centre Terrey Hills  
St James Medical Practice - North Balgowlah  
AE Lam Pty Ltd - Mona Vale  
Dee Why Medical Practice  
Frenchs Forest Medical Centre  
Drs HC Vandenberg & PL Bryce - Forestville

Manly Warringah is currently ranked **92** out of 114 divisions with an Overall Coverage Rate of **87.5%**.

## Need help improving your immunisation rates?

The following resources are available from the Division:

- ✓ **Immunisation: Common Observed Reactions to Vaccines** - Useful information for parents.
- ✓ **Recall Cards** - 1 & 4 year old birthday cards
- ✓ General **Reminder Cards** for ALL child immunisations
- ✓ **Medicare Healthy Kids Check Template** checklist for recording results and can be used as a report of the health assessment
- ✓ **Myths & Realities Booklet**
- ✓ **Strive for Five** - National Vaccine Storage Guidelines
- ✓ **Data Logging**. The Division can arrange to install a data logger in your vaccine fridge to record the temperature every 10 minutes for 1 week. Information from the data logger is downloaded at the Division and supplied to you. Apart from confirming that your vaccine fridge is at the correct temperature, the information is useful for your accreditation and re accreditation.
- ✓ **Vaccine Fridge Tags & Stickers**
- ✓ **Daily Vaccine Fridge Temperature Recording Chart**
- ✓ **Maintenance of Optimal Storage Conditions for Vaccines** - summary information for practice staff

*Useful links for the most up to date information and resources:*

[The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance](http://www.ncirs.edu.au/)

<http://www.ncirs.edu.au/>

[NSW Dept of Health](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/)

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/>

[Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health](http://www.nscchealth.nsw.gov.au/)

<http://www.nscchealth.nsw.gov.au/>

[World Health Organisation](http://www.who.int/en/)

<http://www.who.int/en/>

[Immunise Australia Program](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/)

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/>

[Australian Immunisation Handbook](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/)

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook-home>

[Australian Childhood Immunisation Register \(ACIR\)](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/patients/acir/providers.jsp)

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/patients/acir/providers.jsp>

## Dates for your diary

### AUGUST

17 -19 PHAA 12<sup>th</sup> National Immunisation Conference  
**Evidence and strategies for a new decade.**  
Adelaide Convention Centre

<http://www.phaa.net.au/12thNationalImmunisationConference.php>