

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

HSS(MD) 22/2007

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 22/2007
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Dear Colleague

**CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME – Hib booster catch-up campaign
Cover Letter for Health Professionals**

You will be aware that the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety is introducing a *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) vaccination catch up programme which will start on 10 September 2007 and continue until 3 March 2009, refer to Chief Professionals letter HSS(MD) 17/2007 dated 24 July 2007. This campaign is following the recommendation from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to offer a Hib booster to young children who have not previously received one, so that these children are protected in line with older and younger children.

It is designed to catch those children who missed out on their Hib booster immunisation because their birth date fell between 13 March 2003 and 3 September 2005. This cohort of children are too young to have had a booster as part of the 2003 Hib catch-up campaign, and too old to have received the new Hib/ Men C booster at 12 months following its introduction in September 2006.

To support health professionals in the delivery of this campaign, DHSSPS in conjunction with the Health Promotion Agency, have developed an Information Pack containing a public information leaflet and a Q&A factsheet. Health professionals delivering the programme should ensure that parents have an opportunity to discuss the information contained in the material.

The Childhood Immunisation Programme in Northern Ireland has been extremely successful over the years and our uptake rates for immunisations in childhood are among the highest in the UK. We hope you find these resources useful during the course of the campaign and we would like to thank you for your continuing work on the childhood immunisation programme.

Yours sincerely

**Dr M McBride
Chief Medical Officer**

**Dr N Morrow
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**

**Mr M Bradley
Chief Nursing Officer**

This letter is available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk and also on the DHSSPS Extranet which can be accessed directly at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk> or by going through the HPSS Web at <http://www.n-i.nhs.uk> and clicking on DHSSPS.