

**From the Chief Medical Officer**  
Dr Michael McBride



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

An Roinn  
**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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**HSS(MD) 21/2007**

To: Chief Executive Designate of the HSCA  
Chief Executive, North and West Belfast legacy  
Community Trust  
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services –  
Boards/Trusts/CSA  
Directors of Public Health - Boards  
Prescribing Advisers - Boards  
Consultants in Communicable Disease Control –  
Boards  
Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre  
Northern Ireland  
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All GPs  
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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 21/2007  
Date: 1 August 2007

Dear Colleague

## **DESIGNATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION CENTRES**

1. The purpose of this letter is to set out arrangements for the future designation and administration of Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres (YFVCs) in Northern Ireland.
2. The Department is presently responsible for the designation of GP practices (and others) in Northern Ireland as YFVCs. The EHSSB's announcement of its decision to close the College Street, Belfast YFVC in March 2008, and for it to charge for vaccinations in the meantime, has led to a surge in applications for designation from GP practices.
3. To develop a coherent and consistent approach to good practice and training for the many new applicants, and to address needs around heightened capacity, the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) has been commissioned by the Department to take over responsibility for designating Northern Ireland's YFVCs, and for providing centres' staff training. This arrangement will be effective from 1 August 2007.
4. NaTHNaC was created to promote and improve standards in travel medicine with the goal of protecting the health of the British traveller. Its overall aims include the development of consistent and authoritative guidance on general health matters to professionals advising the public travelling abroad. NaTHNaC is funded by the

Department of Health and designates all YFVCs in England and Wales. It works in partnership with the:

- Hospital for Tropical Disease
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Health Protection Agency.

5. NaTHNaC's costs for providing its Yellow fever service will be payable by GP practices and other designated centres by means of a registration fee. The cost for one year's registration will be £75 or £125 for two years. These fees will increase to £90 and £150 respectively 15 September 2007.
6. Existing centres and those who applied to the Department for designation before 1 August 2007 will need to re-apply to NaTHNaC for designation and complete the process satisfactorily so that their details can go on to the NaTHNaC website. All existing centres have been advised that they are required to re-register with NaTHNaC and return the appropriate form before 15 September to take advantage of the lower rate fee.
7. Henceforward, GP practices seeking designation should contact NaTHNaC directly. Old-style application forms received in the Department after 31 July 2007 will be returned.
8. Registration information for intending YFVCs is available from NaTHNaC at [https://www.nathnac.org/pro/Yellow\\_Fever\\_Vaccination\\_Centre\\_Information.htm](https://www.nathnac.org/pro/Yellow_Fever_Vaccination_Centre_Information.htm)
9. NaTHNaC will provide the necessary mandatory training for designated centre staff. The normal training fee of £90 will not be applied to those centres that are currently designated, or whose applications have been received before 1 August 2007.
10. The date for existing YFVCs' staff training (in Northern Ireland), and for those from any other candidate centre, is proposed to be 3 October 2007 at the Stormont Hotel in Belfast. To remain designated, one member of staff from every centre must attend this one-day training session, and a half-day training session every two years thereafter.
11. YFVCs that do not comply with the new requirements will lose their designation status and will not be able to purchase Yellow fever vaccine from the supplier manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur MSD.
12. The list of centres on the Department's website will no longer be maintained and there will instead be the following direct link to NaTHNaC's YFVC search facility, effected by inserting a town name or postcode:  
<https://www.nathnac.org/yellowfevercentres.aspx?comingfrom=travel>.
13. NaTHNaC will also provide YFVCs with supplies of the new International Certificate of Vaccination and Prophylaxis, issued in accordance with WHO International Health Regulations, and provide their registration number to Sanofi Pasteur MSD to enable purchase of vaccine.

14. After designation, NaTHNaC will support centres generally and more widely, and will, for example, provide:
- advice on compliance with standards for vaccine storage and administration, record keeping and audit
  - a check-list for physicians administering Yellow fever vaccine
  - a listing of the practice on the YFVC locator on the website
  - updates on epidemiology of Yellow fever disease
  - information about Yellow fever for travellers
  - information on disease outbreaks around the world
  - changes in advice for travellers
  - specific advice about difficult travel health scenarios
  - cascade e-mail alerts about worldwide outbreaks.
15. If you have queries about your current designation or related matters please telephone Miss Karen Savage on (028) 90522118 or write by email to karen.savage@dhsspsni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



**DR MICHAEL McBRIDE**  
**Chief Medical Officer**

cc Mr Andrew McCormick, Permanent Secretary  
Dr Norman Morrow, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer  
Dr Elizabeth Mitchell, Deputy Chief Medical Officer  
Mr Andrew Elliott, Health Development Director, DHSSPS  
Dr Lorraine Doherty, Senior Medical Officer, DHSSPS  
Jeffrey Dudgeon, Health Protection Team, DHSSPS  
Miss Karen Savage, Health Protection Team, DHSSPS  
Professor David Hill, NaTHNaC  
Dr Brian Dunn, Chair, GPC, BMA  
Miss Jenny Harper, Department of Health, London  
Dr Jane Jones, Health Protection Agency

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