

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Henrietta Campbell CB

HSS(MD)30/2005

To:
Chief Executives, Health & Social Services Boards and Trusts
Directors of Public Health, Health & Social Services Boards
Director of Nursing, Health & Social Services Boards
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services, Health & Social Services
Boards, Trusts and CSA
GP Medical Advisers, Health & Social Services Boards
Consultants in Communicable Disease Control, Health & Social
Services Boards
All Community Pharmacists
Medical Directors, Health & Social Services Trusts (*for onward
distribution to all Consultants*)
Nursing Directors, Health & Social Services Trusts (*for onward
distribution to all Community Nurses*)
All General Practitioners (*for onward distribution to practice staff
including practice nurses*)
Regional Epidemiologist, CDSC (NI)

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)30/2005
Date: 20th September 2005

Dear Colleague

Update on Influenza Immunisation Programme Arrangements for 2005/2006

1. I am writing to update you on the arrangements for the Influenza Immunisation Programme for 2005/2006. You have already received correspondence on this issue during the summer (Circular HSS(MD)21/2005 issued on 23rd June 2005 and HSS(MD)21/2005 Follow Up on 3rd August 2005). The Influenza Immunisation Programme will be formally launched on the 3rd October 2005 and there will be extensive publicity around the programme during that week.
2. I am pleased to inform you that sufficient supplies of influenza vaccine have been obtained to allow effective delivery of the immunisation programme this year. Previous correspondence advised that orders for influenza vaccine for this year's programme should be placed directly with Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals. It has been brought to my attention that approximately 80 GP Practices in the province have yet to place orders for influenza vaccine and I would urge those practices which have not done so already to order influenza vaccine **immediately**. Details of how to order vaccine directly from Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals are attached at Annex A

3. Representatives of the Department and the Regional Influenza Immunisation Committee have visited Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals to review the arrangements for procurement and distribution of the vaccine. At that meeting the Department were satisfied that effective arrangements are in place this year for timely distribution of influenza vaccine to all GP Practices to meet the requirements of the immunisation programme. Order for influenza vaccine will, in general, be delivered within 48 hours of ordering, thus it is essential that GP Practices plan their immunisation clinics and timings as far in advance as possible.

Cold Chain

4. The “cold chain” is a system of storing and transporting vaccines at recommended temperatures from the point of manufacture to the point of use. The role of the cold chain is to maintain the potency of vaccines. The distribution arrangements put in place by Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals will ensure proper maintenance of the cold chain for the influenza vaccines. It is important that practices storing influenza vaccine are assured that they
 - a. have sufficient space for storage of influenza vaccine within their fridge (storage requirements shown at Annex A);
 - b. can maintain influenza vaccine in storage at temperatures between 2° and 8°. Maintenance of these temperatures and regular temperature monitoring are essential for cold chain maintenance.

In addition it is important to note that influenza vaccine should not be frozen.

5. The updated influenza immunisation leaflets for the public and posters for display in surgeries and pharmacies have been distributed in time for the campaign. Practices should now be making formal arrangements for the delivery of the campaign and the organisation of their immunisation clinics.

For further information please contact:

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& Chair of Regional Influenza & Pneumococcal Working Group

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Chief Pharmaceutical Officer Tel: 028 90 523219

Yours sincerely

DR LORRAINE DOHERTY
Senior Medical Officer/Consultant Epidemiologist

HOW TO ORDER INFLUENZA VACCINE

Orders for influenza vaccine must be placed **only** with Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals (see details below) either by telephone, fax or e-mail. Where possible it is preferred that all orders from GP practices are faxed or e-mailed using the attached form (a copy of which can also be downloaded from the DHSSPS Website www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phealth).

Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals
6a Prince Regent Road
BELFAST
BT5 6QR
Tel: 02890 795799
Fax: 02890 796303
E-mail: orders@castlereagh.uk.com

Opening hours are 8.30am to 5.00pm (Monday to Friday)

Initial Orders

Orders for the first week's supply should be placed with Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals immediately on receipt of this letter.

Package Dimensions

The vaccines are stored in packages of ten pre-filled syringes. The dimensions of these packages are as follows:

Length = 190mm
Width = 150mm
Depth = 17 mm

To imagine this visually, 100 vaccines (ie 10 packs of ten pre-filled syringes) will occupy the approximate size of a shoe box. Please ensure you have enough space in your fridge to store the vaccines that you have ordered.

Additional Orders

These can be placed anytime after 26th September 2005. Please note that there is no limit on the number of orders that can be placed on an ongoing basis. **As Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals will deliver all orders within 48 hours of receipt there is no need to stockpile vaccine.** However, should any more urgent delivery be required, please contact Customer Services on the telephone number above.

Castlereagh Pharmaceuticals
Influenza Vaccine - ORDER FORM

Date of Order:

Practice Code:

Practice Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone No:

Fax No:

Opening Times:

Contact Name:

Product Name	Quantity must be in TEN'S
Inactivated Influenza Vaccine	

6A Prince Regent Road, Castlereagh, Belfast BT5 6QR

Tel: 028 9079 5799 Fax: 028 9079 6303 email: orders@castlereagh.uk.com