February 2024

**EAST MIDLANDS SCREENING AND IMMUNISATION BULLETIN**

**PLEASE CASCADE TO ALL relevant STAFF, INCLUDING GPS, PRACTICE NURSES, ADMIN AND RECEPTION STAFF**

# **screening and immunisation team**

The East Midlands Screening and Immunisation Team (SIT) cover all counties in the East Midlands region. Please see attached organogram for details:

# **Immunisation**

## gENERAL iMMUNISATION

**Cold chain management -** please see attached vaccine incident guidance which is helpful to use in the event of a cold chain incident. [Vaccine incident guidance: Responding to errors in vaccine storage, handling, and administration (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1088780/UKHSA-vaccine-incident-guidance-6-july-2022.pdf). Appendix’s A and B on pages 42-44 are particularly useful.

When a cold chain error occurs, **prior** to disposing of any vaccines the SIT team should be informed via the generic inbox and stability information of all vaccines involved in the incident should be sought:

* LLR and Northamptonshire - stability information can be sought from the LRI on [medicines.info@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:medicines.info@uhl-tr.nhs.uk) or Tel: 0116 2586491 as well as individual manufactures.
* Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire – individual manufacturers should be contacted.

Please ensure any vaccine wastage is reported on Immform website at [Intranet Portal - Logon (phe.gov.uk)](https://portal.immform.phe.gov.uk/Logon.aspx?returnurl=%2fHome.aspx)

## tHE iMPORTANCE OF THE CORRECT TIMING OF iMMUNISATIONS

The Routine Immunisation Schedule has been developed to ensure that clinically all vaccinations are given at appropriate times to provide protection against infections before eligible individuals reach an age at which they are at increased risk from vaccine preventable diseases. Vaccinations given outside the specified timeframe may be less effective for the patient and may require re-vaccination at a later stage.

Registered Immunising practitioners should keep themselves up to data in line with NMC requirements and should access annual immunisation training in accordance with the national minimum training standards for nurses; this means they can then give information of a high standard to parents, which will then help them to make an educated decision about vaccinating their child. <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/679824/Training_standards_and_core_curriculum_immunisation.pdf>

**If there are special circumstances that require vaccinations to be given earlier or later than schedule, i.e., travel, then these should be discussed on an individual basis with your the local NHSE Screening and Immunisation Team and in accordance with The Green Book:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book#the-green-book>.

Practitioners have a public health responsibility to ensure that immunisations are offered in line with the complete routine immunisation schedule and in accordance NHSE/UKHSA recommendations. If parents express a wish to have their child’s vaccinations outside of the recommended schedule, they should be given the opportunity to discuss this further with their GP to reassure the parent that the recommended schedule represents the expert advice of the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and is based on the most up to date, available evidence.

**Health professionals should not actively support parents in choosing an approach that may result in the child being put at unnecessary risk. Unvaccinated patients are vulnerable to disease and this could also affect the wider community, by lowering herd immunity.**

If, after further discussion, parents refuse to have their child immunised at the recommended time (e.g. those offered at 8, 12 and 16 weeks or the four at 12 months) and persist in their request then it should be made clear that this is not advised, will leave their child at risk for a longer period and that there is no national recommendation to support any alternative schedules. The discussion with the parents should reinforce that any deviation from the recommended schedule is their decision, and their risk. Under these circumstances, individual practitioners and/or practices can choose to accommodate minor deviation from the schedule to ensure that a child is offered some protection, however in these situations, it should always be recorded carefully that the parents have chosen to have the vaccines outside of the normal schedule, that they have been counselled against this and advised that this is not in accordance with national guidance. Parents should be encouraged to make the next vaccination appointment and return to the recommended schedule as soon as possible.

**The provider is not obliged, however, to offer options that lead to a disproportionate increase in workload (e.g. accommodating multiple visits), or to provide alternative vaccines that are not routinely used or licensed at that age (e.g. offering Td-IPV in place of primary DTaP-IPV-Hib-HepB).**

## MMR – National Campaign

Throughout February (from w/c 5 February) and March 2024, national MMR vaccination reminders will be sent to the parents/guardians of children aged 6-11 years.  In London and some parts of the West Midlands, NHSE plans to extend the target age cohorts so that children and young adults aged 6-25 years will receive MMR vaccination reminders.

Parents and guardians of children and young people will receive MMR reminders primarily by text, an email will also be sent if recorded on the GP record, letters are sent when there is no digital contact available.

A **Practice Nurse resource** to support planning and response to patient contact resulting from the upcoming MMR Call and Recall is available here:

Please note that we are getting lots of queries into our immunisation clinical advice (ICAS) inbox regarding older children and adults. Please be aware that whilst there is currently no requirement to actively call these cohorts if parents of older children and adults come forward to request vaccination and do not have two recorded MMR vaccines on their medical record then General Practices can vaccinate these individuals using Immform stock and will be paid for this activity. Please see [Green Book of Immunisation - Chapter 21 Measles (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5e021b9140f0b6665e80187b/Greenbook_chapter_21_Measles_December_2019.pdf) pg.10 for specific age related advice.

## Vaccine update – GOV.UK

The latest Vaccine Update is available here - [Vaccine update: issue 344, November 2023, pregnancy special - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-344-november-2023-pregnancy-special/vaccine-update-issue-344-november-2023-pregnancy-special). It is recommended that all health care professionals involved in vaccination subscribe to the vaccine update. Vaccine updates can be subscribed to here: [Public Health England (govdelivery.com)](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHPA/subscribers/new?preferences=true)

## Enquiries

**Contact details for immunisation queries:**

* Any routine immunisation (Section 7A) enquiries or incidents (including cold chain & vaccine incidents) should be sent to the East Midlands Immunisation Clinical Advice Service (EMICAS) generic inbox [england.emids-imms@nhs.net](mailto:england.emids-imms@nhs.net)
* All ImmForm queries should be emailed to: [Helpdesk@immform.org.uk](mailto:Helpdesk@immform.org.uk) or 0207 183 8580.
* All practice payment queries should be emailed to: [england.gp-contracting@nhs.net](mailto:england.gp-contracting@nhs.net)

# **Patient Group Directions**

Patient group directions are available on our website at: [NHS England — Midlands » East Midlands Screening and Immunisation Team (SIT)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/midlands/information-for-professionals/leicestershire-lincolnshire-northamptonshire-screening-and-immunisation-team-sit/). Please ensure you are always using the most up to date version of any PGD. For any queries regarding PGDs please contact our generic immunisation inbox.

The following PGDs and notice of extension have been distributed via GMAST last week and will be available on the website shortly:

* **MMR** v5.00 GOV-15882, valid from 29th February 2024 and expires 31st January 2027.
* **PCV** v5.00, GOV-15880, valid from 28th February 2024 and expires 31st May 2026.
* **Typhoid** v4.00, GOV-15879, valid from 29th February 2024 and expires 28th February 2027.
* Notice of extension for **PCV Risk Groups** the existing PGD’s expiry has been extended to 28th February 2025.

# **Screening**

## DIabetic eye screening

A person smiling with blue text

Description automatically generated

## Cervical Screening

**Cervical PCN Open Exeter Access Form**

For information: NHS England have developed this new form for PCNs to complete and return to [england.openexeteraccess@nhs.net](mailto:england.openexeteraccess@nhs.net) to enable access for their sample takers.

****The Derby Laboratory will also be sharing this form with any PCN lead email addresses they hold, in support of the ongoing work to reduce the number of handwritten sample forms received.

**CSAS Update:**

## eNQUIRIES

Adult and ANNB Screening Programme enquiries should be sent to: [england.em.screening@nhs.net](mailto:england.em.screening@nhs.net)

# **COntact Details**

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| **GENERIC EMAIL FOR QUERIES RELATING TO SCREENING OR ROUTINE IMMUNISATIONS** | |
| IMMUNISATION | [ENGLAND.EMIDS-IMMS@NHS.NET](mailto:ENGLAND.EMIDS-IMMS@NHS.NET) |
| SCREENING | [ENGLAND.EM.SCREENING@NHS.NET](mailto:ENGLAND.EM.SCREENING@NHS.NET) |
| **CHILD HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICES (CHIS) - UPDATED** | |
| LINCOLNSHIRE | [scwcsu.Lincs.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.Lincs.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234 |
| LEICESTERSHIRE | [scwcsu.LLRMovementsteam.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.LLRMovementsteam.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234  [scwcsu.LLRchildhealthrecords.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.LLRchildhealthrecords.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234  [scwcsu.LLRbirthsregistrationteam.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.LLRbirthsregistrationteam.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234 |
| NORTHAMPTONSHIRE | [scwcsu.northants.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.northants.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234 |
| DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE | [scwcsu.derbyshire.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.derbyshire.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234 |
| NOTTS AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE | Nottingham City - [scwcsu.nottscity.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.nottscity.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234  Notts County - [scwcsu.nottscounty.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.nottscounty.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234  Bassett Law - [scwcsu.Bassetlaw.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.Bassetlaw.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234 |
| **SCHOOL AGED IMMUNISATION SERVICE (SAIS)** | |
| LINCOLNSHIRE | [lhnt.sais@nhs.net](mailto:lhnt.sais@nhs.net) 01522 572950 |
| LEICESTERSHIRE | Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust: 0300 3000 007 |
| NORTHAMPTONSHIRE | [Imms.nhft@nhs.net](mailto:Imms.nhft@nhs.net)  0800 170 7055 (option 5) |
| DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE | [immunisations.derbyshire@intrahealth.co.uk](mailto:immunisations.derbyshire@intrahealth.co.uk) Tel: 0333583397 Option 5 |
| NOTTS AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE | [immunisations.nottinghamshire@intrahealth.co.uk](mailto:immunisations.nottinghamshire@intrahealth.co.uk) Tel: 0333583397 Option 4 |

# **Useful Documents**

* A poster for display in clinical areas promoting our immunisation clinical advice service:
* **UPDATED September 2023:** Incomplete or uncertain immunisation schedule: [Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1179084/UKHSA-12599-algorithm-immunisation-status-from-1September2023.pdf)



* **UPDATED September 2023:** Immunisation cohorts and providers for 2023/24:
* The Green Book – Immunisation Against Disease -  [Immunisation against infectious disease - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book)