

South West Vaccination & Screening Bulletin

 South West Collaborative
Commissioning Hub



Issue 162: 17th November 2023

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Many thanks to South West GP Colleagues – Manual Monthly Flu Immform Submission

As you are aware the UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) publish the national Official Statistics on vaccine coverage for frontline healthcare workers (HCWs), school aged children and eligible GP registered patients, that are used to formally evaluate the programme year-on-year and are quoted in the public domain and reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO). These data collections are managed through the [ImmForm website](#). As part of the 2023/24 Enhanced Service for the Seasonal influenza vaccination programme, it is a requirement that practices monitor and report all activity information via ImmForm on a monthly basis. This information will be used by both ourselves as Commissioner (NHS England) and UKHSA for monitoring uptake achievement and national reporting.

As highlighted in previous communications, normally this monthly data set is automatically extracted via the GP IT supplier. However, due to an issue with one IT supplier this automated upload has been impacted, resulting in the need to request the submission of data manually.

We wanted to say a HUGE thank you to the 116 practices for completing this manual upload in the shorter than anticipated time frame, some of whom may have been doing this for the first time. We acknowledge that the issues with data extraction are frustrating and presents an extra burden for our primary care colleagues at an already extremely busy time of year.

We appreciate all your ongoing efforts to understand flu vaccination activity and uptake across the South West, and how we can all best support the protection of the South West population against flu with the aim to help reduce winter pressures.

In case there is a similar issue over future months, please find below a reminder of the full schedule of the mandatory monthly collections as detailed below:

Survey Month	Cumulative Data Between	GP IT Supplier Submission Start date	GP IT Supplier Submission End date	Manual Submission Start Date	Manual submission End Date
October	1 September 2023 and 31 October 2023 (inclusive)	01 November 2023	09 November 2023	11 November 2023	16 November 2023
November	1 September 2023 and 30 November 2023 (inclusive)	01 December 2023	11 December 2023	12 December 2023	18 December 2023
December	1 September 2023 and 31 December 2023 (inclusive)	01 January 2024	10 January 2024	11 January 2024	17 January 2024
January	1 September 2023 and 31 January 2024 (inclusive)	01 February 2024	09 February 2024	10 February 2024	16 February 2024
February	1 September 2023 and 29 February 2024 (inclusive)	01 March 2024	11 March 2024	12 March 2024	18 March 2024

Once again, many thanks to all practices for reviewing and manually uploading this data.

ICARS Cold Chain Audit

Vaccines are sensitive biological substances that when too hot or too cold can quickly lose their efficacy. If vaccines are stored outside of the recommended temperature range, the vaccine may fail to create the desired immune response and result in sub-optimal protection against vaccine preventable diseases.

The purpose of the vaccine cold chain is to maintain vaccine product quality from the time of manufacturer until the point of administration. This is fulfilled by ensuring that vaccines are

handled, stored and transported within the appropriate temperature range according to the manufacturer's summary of product characteristics.

ICARS would like to request sites storing vaccines to complete our annual audit tool available here, <https://forms.office.com/e/a2DSzQFr4H>. This audit tool was adapted from the [Oxford Vaccine Group](#) (Vaccine storage audit) and should be used in conjunction with:

- The Green Book: Storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines ([chapter 3](#)).
- [The Protocol for ordering, storing and handling vaccines](#).
- The survey also links to the standards required by [CQC standard 4: medicines management \(healthcare services\) -vaccine storage in GP practice](#).

Please direct any queries to the South West Immunisation Clinical Advice and Response Service (ICARS) at england.swicars@nhs.uk.

COVID-19:

REMINDER: Which COVID-19 Vaccine? Poster

Please find attached the [Which COVID-19 vaccines? poster \(Autumn 2023\)](#).

This poster is also available to order as a paper copy from:

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Swhichcovid19vaccinesposterautumn2023version>

There are also 5 individual A4 vaccines posters but these are download only. These are attached to this email for your convenience.

UK Health Security Agency

Which COVID-19 vaccine?

Comirnaty 30 Omicron XBB.1.5 30 micrograms/dose	Comirnaty 10 Omicron XBB.1.5 10 micrograms/dose	Comirnaty 3 Omicron XBB.1.5 3 micrograms/dose Concentrate	Spikevax Omicron XBB.1.5 50 micrograms/dose	VidPrevtyn Beta 5 micrograms/dose (recombinant, adjuvanted)
Dose 0.3ml (30 micrograms) by intramuscular injection	Dose 0.3ml (10 micrograms) by intramuscular injection	Dose 0.2ml (3 micrograms) by intramuscular injection	Dose 0.5ml (50 micrograms) by intramuscular injection	Dose 0.5ml (5 micrograms) by intramuscular injection
Age From 12 years	Age 5 to 11 years	Age From 6 months to 4 years	Age From 18 years	Age Currently recommended by JCVI for adults aged 75 years and above and for some individuals from age 18 – see Green Book for details
Number of doses per vial 6	Number of doses per vial 6	Number of doses per vial 10	Number of doses per vial 5	Number of doses per vial of mixed vaccine 10
Dilution required? No: ready to use once thawed	Dilution required? No: ready to use once thawed	Dilution required? Yes with 2.2ml sodium chloride 0.9% solution for injection	Dilution required? No: ready to use once thawed	Preparation required? There are 2 x 2.5ml vials (antigen vial and adjuvant vial) which must be combined in the antigen vial before use. After mixing the vaccine vial contains 10 doses of 0.5ml
Refrigerated storage Thawed and unopened: up to 10 weeks at +2°C to +8°C	Refrigerated storage Thawed and unopened: up to 10 weeks at +2°C to +8°C	Refrigerated storage Thawed, unopened and undiluted: up to 10 weeks at +2°C to +8°C	Refrigerated storage Thawed and unopened: up to 30 days at +2°C to +8°C	Refrigerated storage Unmixed vials should be stored in a refrigerator (+2°C to +8°C) for up to 1 year; do not freeze. Keep the vials in the outer carton in order to protect from light
Room temperature stability Unopened vials may be stored for up to 12 hours at temperatures up to +30°C	Room temperature stability Unopened vials may be stored for up to 12 hours at temperatures up to +30°C	Room temperature stability Unopened vials may be stored for up to 12 hours at temperatures up to +30°C	Room temperature stability Unopened vials may be stored: at +8°C to +25°C up to 24 hours	Room temperature stability Mixed vial stable at +23°C to +27°C for 2 to 3 hours
Stability after first puncture* May be stored between +2°C and +30°C; use within 12 hours	Stability after first puncture* May be stored between +2°C and +30°C; use within 12 hours	Stability after first puncture* May be stored between +2°C and +30°C; use within 12 hours	Stability after first puncture* May be stored between +2°C and +25°C; use within 6 hours	Stability after mixing* Should ideally be stored in a refrigerator or cool box at +2°C to +8°C. Mixed product can be kept at room temperature whilst in use at a clinic session. Use all 10 doses as soon as practically possible and discard any remaining unused doses after 6 hours
Appearance Prior to mixing: the thawed dispersion may contain white to off-white opaque amorphous particles After mixing: a white to off-white dispersion with no particulates visible	Appearance Prior to mixing: the thawed dispersion may contain white to off-white opaque amorphous particles After mixing: clear to slightly opalescent dispersion with no particulates visible	Appearance Prior to dilution: the thawed dispersion may contain white to off-white opaque amorphous particles Diluted vaccine: white to off-white dispersion, no particulates visible	Appearance White to off-white dispersion	Appearance The antigen solution is a colourless, clear liquid. The adjuvant emulsion is a whitish to yellowish homogeneous milky liquid. The mixed vaccine is a whitish to yellowish homogeneous milky liquid emulsion
<small>All products contain Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) apart from Sanofi VidPrevtyn Beta which contains Polysorbate 80 and Polysorbate 20. *Punctured vials should be used as soon as possible to minimise the risk of microbial contamination. All vaccines should be used in accordance with Green Book and NHS England operational guidance.</small>				
Resources: Green Book Chapter 14a: gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14-a • GOV.UK COVID-19 vaccination programme: gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme				
<small>© Crown copyright 2023. UK Health Security Agency gateway number 2023438. Product code: C23WVPP1. 1p OCT 2023 (APS). To order more copies of this poster please visit www.healthpublications.gov.uk/Home.html or call 0300 123 1002 and use product code: C23WVPP1</small>				

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the SW Vaccination and Screening Team at england.swvast@nhs.net. Back issues of these bulletins and attachments are available on the NHS England website [here](#). **Please note that if there are no items for your information a Bulletin will not be circulated.**