



ISLHD Immunisation Newsletter - November

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Immunisation Update

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Public Health Unit is partnering with COORDINARE to host the annual immunisation update.

Session 3: Tuesday 1st December 2020

Time: 6.00-7.00pm

Topic: Update your knowledge on Cold Chain, NSW School Immunisation Program & Catch up Vaccination

Register below for the final webinar session:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/781435417988266255>

Session 1 is available via the below link;

<https://vimeo.com/467547938/4d5c746ff2>

PneumoSmart

The *PneumoSmart Vaccination Tool* has been created using the pneumococcal disease vaccination recommendations in the online Australian Immunisation Handbook, and has been developed to assist GPs, medical specialists and other immunisation providers to comply with them.

<https://immunisationcoalition.org.au/pvt/>

PRODA

Services Australia is changing the way you access the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). The current method of using the authentication file logon will be switched off in the near future.

To access the AIR you need to have an individual PRODA account – whether you are accessing the AIR as an individual or on behalf of their organisation, or both. PRODA is an authentication system used to securely access government online services.

It verifies both an individual's and organisation's identity.

Services Australia have developed instruction guides to set up both [individuals](#) and [organisations](#) in PRODA.

For PRODA assistance

<http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/proda>

PRODA Helpdesk 1800 700 199

proda@servicesaustralia.gov.au

For HPOS assistance

<http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpos>

HPOS Helpdesk 1800 700 199

For AIR assistance

<http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpair>

General enquiries 1800 653 809 (Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm)

AIR Internet Helpdesk 1300 650 039 (Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm)

air@servicesaustralia.gov.au

Data Loggers

- **All staff** should be trained in how to operate and manage the data logger and interpret its readings.
- Ensure your data logger is preset to record temperatures at 5-minute intervals.
- The data should be *downloaded* and *reviewed* at least weekly, in addition to twice-daily minimum/maximum recordings. The best time to do this is on a Monday morning prior to seeing patients or after any extended clinic closure. This will ensure that anything that has happened while the clinic has been closed is picked up prior to patients being given potentially ineffective vaccines.
- The data logger should have its accuracy checked annually. This can be done by the manufacturer, by placing another data logger beside it and comparing readings or in some cases (dependent on type) using the 'slush test' method by enclosing the data logger in a zip-lock bag and then placing it in the ice slurry (as per the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5).

Contact your Public Health Unit for immunisation enquiries:

Phone: 1300 066 055

Fax: 4221 6759

Email: islhd-phu-immunisation@health.nsw.gov.au



Australian Government
Department of Health

Acting Chief Medical Officer

Preparations for the 2021 Influenza Season

Dear Colleagues

I am writing to encourage your members to consider their influenza vaccine requirements and commence preparations for the 2021 influenza season.

The Australian Government is a strong supporter of immunisation in that it is a safe and effective way to prevent the spread of vaccine preventable diseases such as influenza and its complications.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to an unprecedented level of demand for influenza vaccines in 2020 across all vaccine channels including GPs, pharmacies and other immunisation providers.

A record number of seasonal influenza vaccines were made available for the Australian market in 2020, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) releasing over 17.6 million doses. This is up from 13.2 million doses in 2019 and 11 million doses in 2018.

Strong demand for seasonal influenza vaccines was observed early in the 2020 season and remained consistent. Influenza vaccination will be more important than ever given the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is anticipated that demand for influenza vaccines will remain high next year.

Whilst supply of the Australian Government funded National Immunisation Program (NIP) influenza vaccines is secure, the impact of the increased demand was felt across the private market in 2020.

Noting the demand experienced this year, now is the time to consider your private market ordering requirements for next year. State and Territory Departments of Health will be in contact with you through their usual channels to facilitate ordering and distribution of NIP vaccines and as such, no further action is required regarding these vaccines at this time.

GP Talking Points October 2020

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your practice



The NSW Health Immunisation Unit is now providing brief updates to immunisation providers on common issues which have been raised through discussions with general practitioners and their staff during the previous month. These will be circulated monthly.

Information regarding 2021 influenza season – please see attached letter from Commonwealth Department of Health regarding planning for the Influenza season in 2021 related to private influenza vaccine stock.

Childhood immunisation rates in NSW during COVID

Recent data from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) demonstrates that, despite the challenges that COVID-19 has placed on general practices and your service delivery, childhood immunisation rates in NSW have remained stable. Congratulations to all involved in ensuring this essential clinical service continues. Please refer to [Vaccination advice during COVID](#) for more information on implementing immunisation clinics during COVID.

Expiry dates on vaccines

A recent enhancement to the State Vaccine Centre online ordering system is the ability to report expired vaccines. Please remember that any vaccines with an expiry noted for example as 08/2020 are valid and able to be used until 31/08/2020. Please do not consider these as expired. These can be discarded at the end of the month noted.

For vaccines that have a specific expiry date e.g 21/06/2020 should be considered expired on that date and discarded. These should then be recorded on the Online System.

Please ensure vaccine stock is regularly checked for expiry dates and ensure that all staff are aware of vaccines that are nearing expiry.

Email contact details on State Vaccine Centre online ordering system

NSW Health uses the email address provided on the NSW Vaccine Centre online ordering system to communicate with providers. It is important that you keep this address updated. This can be done by logging on and going to the “amend delivery address” section of the site.

Transporting vaccines between Practices

During the peak demand period for Influenza vaccines in 2020, specific approval was given to transport vaccines (with valid cold chain maintenance monitoring and records) to be transported between GP practices. This was agreed to on the basis of unprecedented demand for influenza vaccine/s. Please note that the transport of NIP vaccines between practices is not a recommended or supported practice. Please contact your local public health unit if you have any vaccine management queries.

Updated Resources

Adverse Events Following Immunisation

Recent additions to the Adverse Events following Immunisation (AEFIs) information on the NSW Health website include new resources about vaccine safety, how to reduce the risk of AEFIs and updated AEFI Data.

[Adverse Events Following Immunisation](#)

Further Information

- For information regarding immunisation issues, please visit the NSW Health website: [Immunisation Programs](#)
- Contact your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055

CHANGES TO NSW VACCINE CENTRE WEBPAGE

ALL IMMUNISATION PROVIDERS



Health

Please distribute to all staff in your practice

1. All immunisation providers with an active vaccine account number (VAN) must record their Medicare provider number on the [NSW Vaccine Centre](#) webpage.
2. Report all child, adolescent and adult vaccinations to the AIR to support vaccination program planning in NSW.

What are the changes?

From Thursday 5 November 2020, all immunisation service providers will be required to record the Medicare provider number of each health professional administering vaccines at the practice on the [NSW Vaccine Centre](#) webpage. The information will be used to link vaccines distributed to practices with those reported to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). It will not be used for Medicare billing purposes.

The Medicare provider number is a unique number issued to [health professionals](#) who participate in the Medicare Program and is assigned to the health professional at each location. It does not expire.

Why have the changes been made?

- These changes have been made to ensure NSW Health can track the journey of every vaccine dose distributed from the warehouse, administered to the patient and reported to the AIR.
- These changes will also support roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination program when a vaccine becomes available.

How do I record the Medicare provider details of health professionals at my practice?

There are two options for recording the Medicare provider details on the [NSW Vaccine Centre](#) webpage:

- By logging onto the online ordering page at any time and selecting 'amend Medicare provider details', OR
- When placing a vaccine order, you will be prompted to check and confirm that the list of Medicare provider numbers for the health professional in your practice administering vaccines is correct and up to date.

Refer to the user guides on the NSW Vaccine Centre webpage (<https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com>) for step by step instructions. Please contact the NSW Vaccine Centre on 1300 656 132 if you experience any difficulties recording the Medicare provider details.

Reporting to the AIR

- All child, adolescent and adult vaccinations should be reported to the AIR to minimise accidental repeat vaccination and to support immunisation program planning.
- Practice software should be up to date to ensure accurate and timely reporting to the AIR.

For further information please contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 or visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation.

For more information about Medicare providers numbers visit <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/services/medicare/medicare-benefits-health-professionals/apply-medicare-provider-number>

NSW Health

4 November 2020