



Sharp and to the point

Quarterly newsletter produced by the Immunisation Section, CDCB

Influenza and Vaccination

2007 has seen a significant rise in the number of influenza cases (predominately Influenza A) with 280 cases reported so far in SA (and this is consistent with the National trend for reported influenza- see Graph 2). Information on SA Influenza reports since 2001 can be obtained at www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/notifiable-diseases-summary/flu_charts.htm

The funded Influenza vaccine provided by the Department of Health is solely for the ≥65 year old's and indigenous groups and is still being distributed by the Vaccine Distribution Centre.

There are several companies producing influenza vaccine and the product information on some may indicate use from 3 months of age. PLEASE NOTE: the Australian Immunisation Handbook recommends influenza vaccine should be offered to anyone ≥6 months of age seeking protection from influenza.

Due to the current influenza situation the Australian Government has released the 'Influenza' chapter from the 9th edition ahead of the rest of the Handbook (not yet released) and can be obtained at www.immunise.health.gov.au. The recommended dosage for children has changed (See Table 1) and providers are advised to follow these recommendations which are set by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Children from 6 months to ≤ 9years of age require 2 doses of vaccine 1 month apart and if a child has received one dose under the old schedule (8th edition), the 2nd dose should be given according to the new schedule (9th edition).(See Table 1)

Vaxigrip Junior® is specifically produced for use in children and is presented as 0.25ml. Other vaccines are in a presentation of 0.5ml but some will have 0.25ml mark on the syringe to enable adjustment for paediatric doses.

Table 1: Recommended doses of influenza vaccine

Age	Dose	Number of doses (1st vaccination)	Number of doses* (subsequent years)
6 months-<3 years	0.25ml	2†	1
3-9 years	0.5ml	2†	1
>9 years	0.5ml	1	1

† Two doses at least 1 month apart are recommended for children aged ≤9 years who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time. The same vial should not be re-used for the 2 doses.

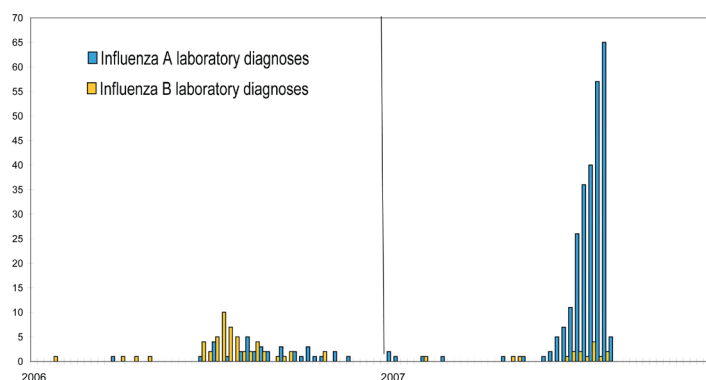
* If a child 6 months to ≤9 years of age receiving influenza vaccine for the first time inadvertently does not receive the second dose within the same year, they should have 2 doses administered the following year.

What's in this issue?

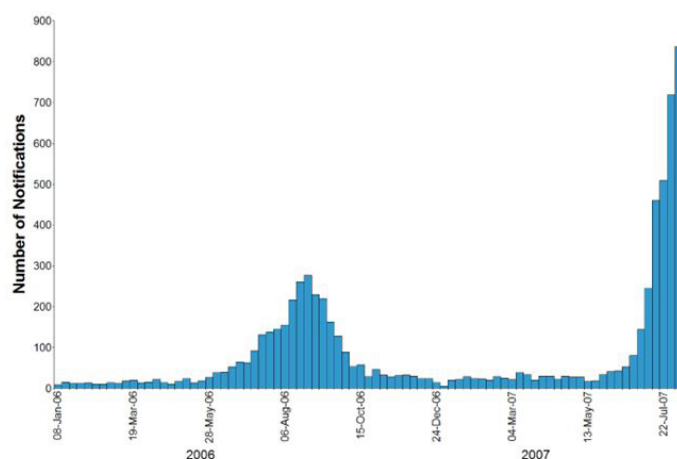
It has been a very busy few months for the Immunisation Section and providers. SA was the only State to commence both vaccination programs on time. This edition has information on the two new programs, HPV and rotavirus with some Q&As on HPV and updates hot off the presses. Current resources available from the Immunisation Section and the Commonwealth are available in hardcopy and online. There are some short informative pieces for providers about a visit to the APY lands and requests for information from our call centre.

This newsletter is produced quarterly by the Immunisation Section, CDCB. If you have any questions, interests or concerns let us know. Editor: Cathy McInnes. Telephone: (08) 8226-7177, Fax: (08) 8226-7187, e-mail: cathlyn.mcinnis@health.sa.gov.au

Graph 1: Influenza in South Australia; number of laboratory diagnoses per week, 2006-2007



Graph 2: The National trend for reported influenza January 2006 - July 2007



(Continued next page)

National HPV Vaccination Register consent forms

Thank you for returning the completed HPV Vaccination Register Consent Forms to the Immunisation Section

Those women who receive the HPV vaccine and agree to have their data held on the Register should read the laminated 'HPV Vaccination Register Information Sheet' and complete the pink section of the HPV Vaccination Register Consent Form.

All completed consent forms should be stored securely and returned at the end of the month in the *Reply Paid* envelope provided to the Immunisation Section.

For more copies of the laminated information sheet, consent forms or *Reply Paid* envelopes please contact the Immunisation Section of the SA Department of Health ph: 8226 7177.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Updated HPV Vaccination Recommendations

The recommendation has now changed for the provision of funded *Gardasil®* vaccine to those aged 26 years, nearly turning 27 years of age.

The previous recommendation stated "...the full course of 3 doses must be completed before the end of June 2009 and before the woman reaches age 27 years."

Following further clinical trials, the policy has been adjusted to "...the full course of 3 doses must be completed before the end of June 2009, **with the first dose given before the woman reaches age 27 years**".

This updated information is now available on: www.health.gov.au/cervicalcancer

This change in recommendation enables a woman who is not yet 27 years of age to commence the course of HPV vaccine, and to complete the course even though she may have turned 27 years of age.

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Phone calls to the Immunisation Section during this period have included requests for information on:

- the dosage and frequency for children having influenza vaccine for the first time;
- the efficacy of the vaccine in children < 9 years after one dose;
- the side effects of vaccination (which can be more pronounced in children under 5 years); and
- contraindications to vaccination including anaphylaxis following any previous dose of any influenza vaccine, anaphylaxis following any vaccine component.

Individuals with anaphylactic sensitivity to eggs should not be given influenza vaccine.

PHOTO: Pictured from left – Noel Lally, Penny Wong and Steve Pernezeo



Anangu Pitjanjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands

Nganampa Health Council (NHC) is an Anangu community controlled health organisation providing comprehensive primary health care services to all the people living on the Anangu Pitjanjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, situated in the far northwest of South Australia.

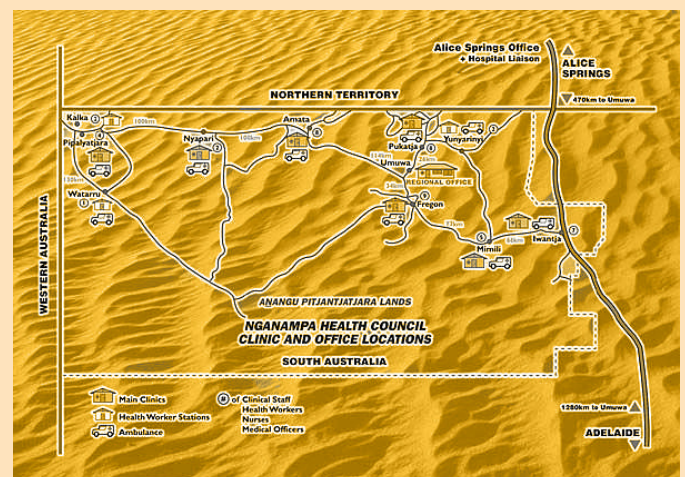
The childhood immunisation program within NHC has been incredibly successful, achieving high coverage rates in a difficult to reach population. This achievement is brought about by the Child Health Coordinator Noel Lally who undertakes regular recall and reminder processes for nurses from all the clinics.

There are nine clinics on the lands, located at Iwantja (Indulkana), Mimili, Fregon, Pukatja (Ernabella) Amata, and Pipalyatjara.

Following from previous Immunisation Section visits by Susan Lewis, Julia Waddington-Powell travelled to the lands to conduct clinic visits and an *Immunisation the Basics* workshop for nursing staff.

Immunisation programs in remote areas face many of the same challenges as urban areas such as cold chain management, developing robust recall and reminder systems and adverse event management. Contending with a highly mobile population, isolation in an emergency and language barriers make the achievements of this program even more impressive.

The Immunisation Section continues to maintain a working relationship with NHC to improve the quality of the immunisation program and support the clinic staff with resources and education.



Innovation and Best Practice in Immunisation

Whyalla City Council's Immunisation Team

The immunisation team decided to promote childhood immunisation through the development of a laminated, colour calendar with the clinic dates for new parents. It has a magnet for displaying it on the fridge as a reminder to parents of the child's next visit. There has been positive feedback from parents and an increased clinic return rate. The current immunisation rate for children in Whyalla at 12 months of age is 95%.

At the council clinic children receive lollies, balloons, bookmarks and toys to play with to distract from the "job at hand". One little boy requested his "needlecoccal" and was upset when he found out he'd already had this vaccination and was unable to receive another lolly!

During the school HPV vaccinations, it was discovered that girls had not eaten breakfast and/or lunch. Lollies were provided to the girls prior to their vaccinations with positive results – no fainting episodes for doses 1 and 2!

Submitted by Senior Environmental Health Officer, Kathryn Perry, Whyalla Council.

Each quarter the Immunisation Section will send a 'David Jones' quality produce pack to the provider who best fits the values of innovation and best practice in immunisation. Please send nominations to your Local Immunisation Coordinator or Cathy McInnes at SAICU ph 8226 7177 or email cathlyn.mcinnis@health.sa.gov.au

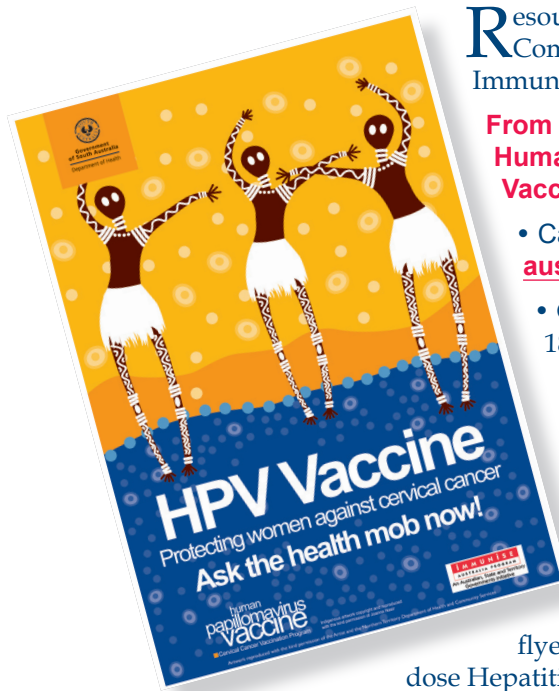
Name & location change

You may notice that SAICU has had a name change and has also relocated. We will be 'seen and heard' as the Immunisation Section, CDCB, Department of Health. We are now located at 11 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide SA 5000 (CitiCentre Building). All other contact details (phone, fax and email) remain the same.

Remember!

The Immunisation Calculator—
it's as easy as 1, 2, 3!
[www.healthsa.sa.gov.au/
immunisationcalculator/](http://www.healthsa.sa.gov.au/immunisationcalculator/)

Immunisation resources for providers and the public



Resources available from the Commonwealth and SA Immunisation Section.

From the Commonwealth National Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination program

- Can be downloaded from: www.australia.gov.au/cervicalcancer
- Can be ordered by phoning 1800 671 811

From the Immunisation Section (Contact your LIC or Immunisation Section ph 8226 7177)

- HPV Posters (pictured) for Aboriginal women
- Hepatitis A posters and flyers for Aboriginal children, birth dose Hepatitis B

- 'Planning a pregnancy' pamphlet,

- Vaccine Safety Pamphlet (updated).

From the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance: www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/

- Human Papillomavirus Vaccines for Australians – Fact sheet
- Rotavirus Vaccines for Australian Children—updated June 2007 – Fact sheet.

Online www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/immunisation-index.htm

- SDOs for HPV and Rotavirus vaccines
- 2007 policies
- 2007 School Based Immunisation program model documents.

SA Rotavirus Vaccination program - commenced 1st July 07

THE ORAL ROTAVIRUS VACCINE, RotaTeq, is given in SA at 2, 4 and 6 months of age with the other scheduled vaccines. Recommended age limits for the 1st dose (see Table 1) are 6 weeks to the end of week 12.

It is also important that doses are not given beyond the upper age limits for the 3rd dose, as routine catch-up or primary vaccination of older children is not recommended. The vaccine course **must be completed by 32 weeks of age** (see table 1).

Store the vaccine at 2-8°C. The vaccine should be administered as soon as possible after being removed from refrigeration. It is light sensitive.

For further important information: www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/Immunisation/070628-rotavirus-summary.pdf

Table 1

Doses of RotaTeq®	Age of routine administration	Age limits for dosing			Min interval between doses
		1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose	
3 oral doses (2ml / dose)	2, 4 & 6 months	6 – 12 weeks	10 – 32* weeks (give all doses before 7.5 months)	14 – 32 weeks (give all doses before 7.5 months)	4 weeks

Ref: Draft 9th ed NHMRC Immunisation Handbook

STOP PRESS

A PDF document of the influenza chapter from the NHMRC approved Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th Edition is available from the Immunise Australia Program website (www.immunise.health.gov.au).

Given the importance of the dosage change for influenza vaccine being given to children, the influenza chapter is being released in advance of the printed Handbook due in November.

Alerts

1. The Meningococcal C funded 'catch-up' program ceased on the 30th June 2007. The vaccine is funded for children at 12 months of age.
2. With increasing numbers of vaccines being stored, please monitor vaccine fridges to maintain temperatures from 2-8° C "Strive for 5". Contact the Immunisation Section on 8226 7177 for advice if outside of this range.

Reminder from Vaccine Distribution Centre

When placing your vaccine order on the 'Vaccine Order Form' can providers please ensure the column 'Stock in fridge' is completed to avoid delays in distribution of your vaccines.

Did You Know??

- Indigenous children up to 5 years of age are eligible for the Hepatitis A vaccine catch up program and this will run until the end of 2007.

In SA the Hepatitis A vaccine is called VAQTA. Two doses are recommended 6 months apart and scheduled for indigenous children born since 1st May 2004 at 18 months of age with the Varicella vaccine, and at 2 years of age with the Pneumovax booster for Indigenous children.

Hepatitis A posters and pamphlets are available from the Immunisation Section Ph 8226 7177

- If a woman receives a MMR vaccine pregnancy should be avoided for 28 days.

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance – Australian Immunisation Professionals (NCIRS-AIP)

This group has been created to facilitate communication between Australian immunisation practitioners, policy makers and researchers. It is modelled on a similar group in the UK. Items proposed for inclusion are in three main categories:

1. News items/publications and meetings of interest
2. A forum for questions and feedback
3. An avenue for rapid information about media controversies.

NCIRS-AIP is a private group chiefly for professionals involved in immunisation in Australia, whether at the level of research, policy development or as immunisation providers. This group also welcomes professionals in other countries who wish to learn more about immunisation in Australia and share their own experience with us.

To subscribe via the Internet, visit <http://mailman.ucc.usyd.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/ncirs-aip>

Aboriginal Health Service Profile

TULLAWON HEALTH SERVICE is located at Yalata about 2 hours West of Ceduna. Health care for the community of around 450 people is provided by Tullawon Health Service, providing a range of primary health care programs from acute care, antenatal and post natal services, Men's and Women's programs, and much more, including immunisation!

The RFDS team of doctors fly in weekly, and around 12 different allied health professionals fly in several times a year to provide specialist clinics.

Immunisation Questions & Answers

Q A mother presents with her 4 year old child asking to have the Influenza vaccine. What do you do?

A Influenza vaccine should be administered to any person who wishes to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza. The vaccine is funded only for Australians 65 years and older, and Indigenous people from 50 years and older, and 15-49 years of age with underlying medical conditions.

Children 6 months to 9 years of age who are receiving influenza vaccine for the 1st time require a 2 dose course at least 1 month apart. Only one dose is required in subsequent years (p170 Australian Immunisation Handbook 8th edition).

Q A 29 year old female has asked to be vaccinated against cervical cancer. What should I do?

A Cervarix® (GSK) is the only cervical cancer vaccine approved for women aged over 27 and up to 45 years of age. The vaccine contains antigens for HPV types 16 and 18 which are responsible for more than 70% of all cervical cancers in Australia. The HPV vaccine Cervarix®:

- Is generally well tolerated with the most common side effects reported to be mild to moderate injection site pain.
- Is a 3 dose schedule – 0, 1 and 6 month intervals
- Will not treat infections or lesions already present at the time of vaccination or prevent the progression of established lesions.
- Will not prevent HPV infection due to other HPV types.
- Is now available on prescription for approx. \$150.00 per dose.