



Sharp and to the point

Quarterly newsletter produced by the Immunisation Section, CDCB

Mumps

ILLNESS DUE TO MUMPS VIRUS INFECTION occurs more commonly in children and adolescents than adults. Many cases have the well known symptoms of swelling of glands on the side of the face, along with fever and headache. Adults infected with mumps can have other complications such as inflammation of the testicle in males, and ovaries in females. Between 3 and 20 cases of mumps per year have been reported in South Australia since 2002.

Mumps is caught by contact with airborne droplets expelled by people infected with mumps. It can also spread to others by contact with the saliva and hands of people with mumps, including tissues used by them. Once caught, mumps takes 2-3 weeks to show signs of infection, such as swelling of the face. When a doctor suspects a person has mumps, laboratory tests are usually needed to confirm the diagnosis.

People with mumps can spread the infection to others for about six days before the swelling begins, until 9 days after. Once diagnosed, people with mumps should not attend school or work for 9 days from when symptoms started, or until the swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).

In September, one case of mumps was diagnosed in a student from overseas who had attended a party 10 days earlier. Three other attendees were also unwell, all resided

PHOTO BELOW: This child's face is displaying diffuse lymphedema of the neck due to a mumps virus infection of the parotid salivary glands.

Photo 1861 provided courtesy of CDC/Patricia Smith, Barbara Rice, from phil.cdc.gov/Phil/details.asp



What's in this issue?

The Immunisation Section has been hard at work this quarter, with good news coming in the form of increased coverage rates for 4 - 6 year olds. We have been busy finalising Rotavirus resources, preparing for the 2008 School Program, and settling into the HPV Program. This edition has a feature article on Mumps, as well as an update from the Vaccine Distribution Centre.

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

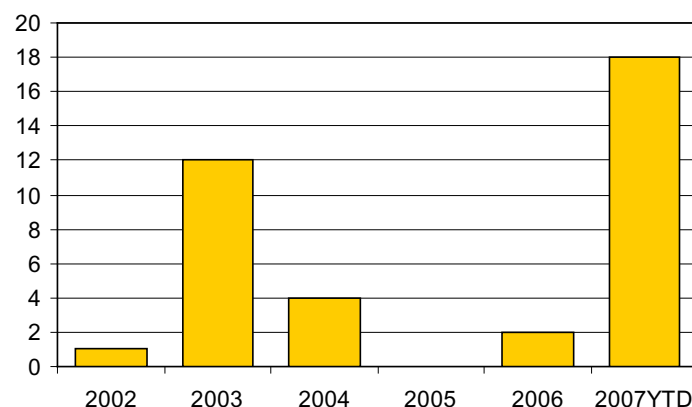
in student accommodation on an Adelaide campus. After arranging appropriate tests by the doctor, the Disease Surveillance and Investigation Section liaised with the accommodation manager to provide information to all residents, telling them of symptoms, vaccination and need for isolation when infected; a vaccination clinic was held on the campus for more than 30 people.

Within a week, 3 further cases were diagnosed, and 2 further cases were diagnosed in following weeks. As all the cases were from overseas, this cluster of mumps highlights the fact that childhood vaccination differs around the world.

Mumps can be prevented by measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination. Two doses of MMR vaccine are required to ensure high levels of protection from Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

Contributed by Joy Copland, Disease Surveillance Unit

SA Mumps Notifications



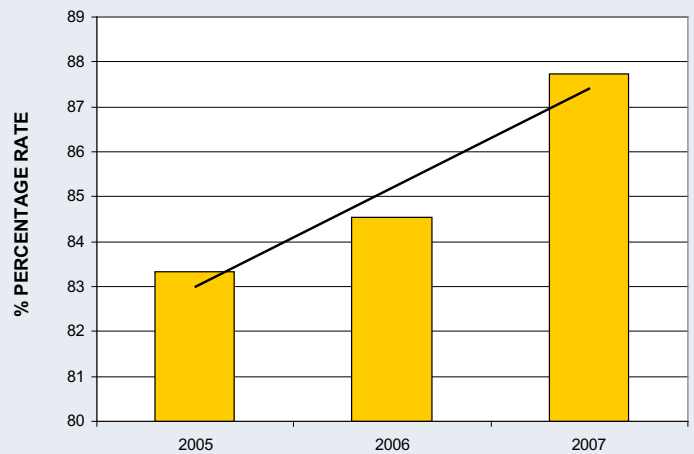
CONGRATULATIONS!

Increased Coverage Rates for 4-6 year Olds

IN 2005 the coverage rate for children in South Australia aged 72-75 months was 83.32% – in 2007 it has risen to 87.73%.

There has been a significant commitment by providers to increase coverage through the implementation of key strategies by the Local Immunisation Coordinators of the Divisions of General Practice and the nurses working in councils and community health services. Some of these strategies include:

- Attendance at Community Events, Expo events and Field Days;
- Talking to parents & caregivers in Kindergartens & Child Care centres;
- Data Cleaning projects in collaboration with other immunisation providers;
- Placing newsletter articles & advertisements, using multiple forms of media and communication tools;



	Sep-05	Sep-06	Sep-07
Cohort 3 72-<75 months	83.32	84.53	87.73

- Engaging groups such as; Ante Natal, Post Natal and Young Mothers; and
- Producing age appropriate and eye catching resources; T-shirts, balloons, postcards, birthday cards and posters

The most recent information from ACIR reports the coverage of this group is now 87.73% – an increase of 4.41% over a two year period.

Although there is still a long way to go, the steady work by those committed professionals has seen a significant improvement in the immunisation coverage rates for South Australian children.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Gardasil Eligibility

It has come to the attention of the Immunisation Section that the HPV vaccine Gardasil is being administered to non-eligible groups.

The current funded HPV program in South Australia offers Gardasil vaccine to females aged from Year 8 to Year 13 through the School Based Immunisation Program, and females up to 26 years through General Practice. If a woman is due to turn 27, she may complete the course. The course should not be commenced in individuals 27 years and over, using the funded vaccine.

When the funded vaccine is offered to non-eligible groups, it has the effect of prematurely depleting the vaccine stock purchased for this program. This could eventually lead to females in the eligible age range not having access to the funded HPV vaccine.

Please ensure your service is offering the Gardasil vaccine correctly, as recommended by the Commonwealth HPV Program.

For more information go to:

- www.australia.gov.au/cervicalcancer
- www.immunise.health.gov.au
- www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/immunisation-index-htm

Or contact the Immunisation Section on 8226 7177.

NARI Immunisation Program

The NARI Program aims to have a coordinated approach to the assessment and delivery of immunisations to newly arrived refugees to South Australia by delivering accessible immunisation services targeting refugees in the areas they are settling.

The NARI Immunisation providers will:

- Ensure new arrivals have their current immunisation status assessed and develop catch-up programs as required; and
- Provide interpreting services for new arrivals attending the clinics when required

NARI Immunisation providers can be contacted on the following numbers:

- Migrant Health Service ~ 8237 3900
- City of Charles Sturt ~ 8237 3900
- Rural City of Murray Bridge ~ 8539 1100
- City of Onkaparinga ~ 8384 0666
- City of Playford ~ 8256 0333
- City of West Torrens ~ 8416 6333
- City of Port Adelaide Enfield 8405 6600

A copy of the NARI Program Flyer for providers can be found at:

www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/Immunisation/0711-nari-flyer.pdf

National HPV Vaccination Program

A number of questions have been asked following the implementation of the National HPV Vaccination Program.

1. "Does the vaccine cause fainting? I heard it made a lot of school girls very unwell."
2. "Aren't there easier steps to take to prevent cervical cancer like regular exercise and a healthy diet?"
3. "I've heard the vaccine could cause infertility. Is this true?"
4. "Could receiving the HPV vaccine make my daughter promiscuous?"

NCIRS have developed an excellent resource to address these and many more questions, located at:

www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/facts/hpv_faq.pdf

Innovation and best practice in immunisation

City of Onkaparinga

With three part time and four casual nurses, plus superb admin support from two part-time staff, Onkaparinga Council has been involved in a number of special programs, including:

- Hepatitis A and B vaccines provided to State Emergency Services volunteers at the Lonsdale site during their training;
- Extension of After-Hours Program to all metropolitan SES staff;
- Indigenous Immunisation Catch-up Nunga Lunch organised by SDGP;
- Aboriginal Health immunising for Flu, Pneumovax and Hepatitis A.

Onkaparinga Council run eight clinics per week, including two after-hours clinics with attendance numbers of around 130-140 per week.

PHOTO: Nunga Immunisation Day held on 4 July 2007 by the City of Onkaparinga

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 ph 8226 7177 or email cathlyn.mcinnnes@health.sa.gov.au



Did You Know??

Refugee children and ACIR Immunisation History

Refugee children less than 7 years of age need to have an ACIR Immunisation History completed at their first immunisation encounter to enable school entry, access to child care placement and allow parents to receive child care payments. Immunisation History can be entered through ACIR Online, or forms in hardcopy can be ordered online or downloaded from: www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/providers/forms/acir.shtml.

For information about ACIR Online please contact Trish Berryman-ACIR Field Officer for SA on 8274 9310.

Rotavirus Vaccination Program

There has been a delay in the distribution of information resources supporting the Rotavirus Vaccination Program. The Commonwealth will distribute materials in the form of brochures and tear-off pads in the coming weeks. A fact sheet for parents has been developed by the Immunisation Section and is available at:

www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/Immunisation/0710-rotavirus-factsheet.pdf

The Commonwealth fact sheet is available at:

www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/rotavirus_vaccine.htm

Immunisation Questions & Answers

Q Can Rotateq® be given outside the recommended specified timeframes?

A No. Administration of a course of rotavirus immunisation is recommended as part of the routine National Immunisation Program in the first 6 months of life.

Immunisation of older infants and children is not recommended, as there is currently inadequate safety data and theoretical concerns regarding use in older age groups.

The efficacy and safety of rotavirus vaccines (RotaTeq®) have been evaluated in large clinical trials in which infants received the vaccines within the specified age limits of 2, 4 and 6 months with Dose 1 no later than 12 weeks and 6 days and Dose 3 no later than 32 weeks and 6 days.

References:

www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/rotavirus-provider
www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/facts/f-fact_sheets.html

Remember!

The Immunisation Calculator—
it's as easy as 1, 2, 3!
www.healthsa.sa.gov.au/immunisationcalculator/

STOP PRESS

9th Edition Immunisation Handbook

We have been advised that the 9th Edition of The Australian Immunisation Handbook will be released in mid January. The Handbook will be released both on-line and in hard copy. Each GP will receive a letter and copy of the handbook from the Immunisation Section of the Department of Health and Ageing.

2008 School Based Immunisation Model Documents

The 2008 School Based Immunisation Model Documents are being updated, and expected to be available online in November. Contact Jaclyn Thiele on 8226 7105, to obtain new covers and spines, or if you require a copy of the Model Documents.

Reminder

A reminder from Vaccine Distribution Centre ...

1. Xmas and New Year operation plans for Vaccine Distribution Centre:

The Vaccine Distribution Centre will be closed for the Christmas period, Monday 17 December 2007 -Tuesday 1 January 2008 inclusive. You will receive two flyers with vaccine deliveries:

- Last delivery dates for your area for 2007
 - 2008 delivery schedule.
2. HPV (Gardasil) Vaccine Ordering:

GP Clinics are reminded to order HPV (Gardasil) Vaccines for the 18-26 Years Program under the 'Adult Schedule' section on the Vaccine Order Form. All Gardasil vaccines for this program are distributed in multi-packs containing 10 doses.

STOP PRESS

Flu Vaccine

Please ensure that all 2007 Flu vaccine is discarded before the end of the year.

Immunisation Golden Rule Number 3 – Check and record the immunisation status of all children and adults regularly, and offer opportunistic immunisation if needed.

Professional Development

Immunisation Professional Certificate for Registered Nurses

Develop your professional skills and knowledge with an Immunisation Professional Development course offered collaboratively with the Immunisation Section, Department of Health and the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of South Australia. Three scholarships are available to successful applicants for studies undertaken in SP2 2008. The scholarships will cover the cost of the course fees.

Visit www.unisa.edu.au/nur/programs/immunis.asp or call (08) 8302 1180 for more details.

School Program Update

2007 has been an extremely busy year for local councils delivering the school immunisation program. The decision to offer the HPV catch up program to all year levels in the first year of the program rather than over 2 years has resulted in a significantly greater workload.

The school immunisation providers have been committed to the program and contributed a great deal of effort to ensure as many students as possible have access to the vaccine. The coverage data will be finalised at the end of the year, and it has been noted that there is a reduction in the uptake for the 2nd dose. Any providers in General Practice who deliver HPV vaccine to girls attending school are reminded to submit the vaccination details on the School Program Follow Up cards provided to each Medical Practice, and forward to the Immunisation Section, CDCB. For additional cards, please contact Jacqui Thiele on 8226 7105.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. HPV Consent Forms - The Immunisation Section can supply reply-paid envelopes to return your HPV Consent Forms.
2. New on the Immunisation Calculator - Rotavirus has been added to the Immunisation Calculator for children born since 1 May 2007.
3. Minimum/Maximum thermometers require you to change the battery once a year to ensure you are able to monitor your refrigerator's temperature consistently. Batteries can be purchased for as little as \$1 each. Why not change your battery at the same time each year? – at the beginning of 'Daylight Saving' should act as a good reminder.

Immunisation Questions & Answers

Q If a baby was born at 35 weeks and at a healthy weight, should it receive the 2 month old vaccination at 8 weeks of age following birth date or 8 weeks of age following the due date?

A The 2 month old vaccine encounter should be at 8 weeks post birth date. The child was a healthy weight and born after 32 weeks of age, so does not require any additional vaccines.

The 8th Edition Australian Immunisation Handbook page 92 states: "Despite their immunological immaturity, preterm babies should be vaccinated according to the recommended schedule at the usual chronological age, provided that they are well and that there are no contraindications to vaccination".