



Immunisation news

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MenACWY vaccination advised for all children aged 14 to 18 years

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that immunisation should be offered to all 14- to 18-year-olds to prevent the transmission of meningococcal group W (MenW) disease.

This advice follows the recently reported continuing rise in cases of MenW in England since 2009. Whilst the number of MenW cases and overall risk remains very low, there has been an increase from 22 cases in 2009 to 117 in 2014.

Having reviewed the outbreak in detail and concluded that the increase would be likely to continue in future years if no action was taken, JCVI has advised the Department of Health to implement a vaccination programme for teenagers as soon as possible.

The Department of Health has accepted JCVI's advice and, in collaboration with Public Health England and NHS England, is now planning the implementation of an immunisation programme using the combined MenACWY vaccine, subject to vaccine availability. More details will be announced as the programme develops, but in the meantime [web link 1](#) has the latest information with links to the relevant JCVI minutes.

A description of the new vaccination, which should answer any questions people are likely to have at this stage, is now available on NHS Choices at [web link 17](#).

Six-year HPV vaccine uptake report shows significant success in reducing the prevalence of HPV 16 and 18 infections

- Over two million girls have had three doses of the vaccine
- Over 86% coverage for the three-dose course
- Over 40% of former PCTs achieved at least 90% coverage

The primary aim of the human papillomavirus vaccination programme that was introduced in England 2008, was to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer in women. Since then, over 2.3 million girls have received three doses of HPV vaccine and this report shows that the programme is already achieving its aims. Reductions in the prevalence of HPV 16/18 infections are consistent with very high vaccine effectiveness among those vaccinated and suggest that herd-protection is also lowering prevalence among those who are not vaccinated.

These early findings support confidence in the programme delivering its expected impact on cervical cancer and other HPV-related diseases in due course.

It is anticipated that, with the new two-dose schedule, higher coverage of the completed course should be achievable, thus increasing the potential impact of the programme. See [web link 2](#) for the full report.

WHO announces flu vaccine viruses for the 2015/16 influenza season

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently announced that the composition of the trivalent vaccine for the northern hemisphere 2015/16 flu season is

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus

It is recommended that quadrivalent vaccines containing two influenza B viruses contain the above three viruses and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

Dr Richard Pebody, head of seasonal flu surveillance at Public Health England, said:

“In deciding on the composition of the flu vaccine for next winter, WHO has recommended changes to the vaccine which will hopefully provide a good match against the flu viruses that circulate next year. It's not possible to fully predict the strains that will circulate in any given season, and there is always a risk of drift, although this does not occur often. Unfortunately, the 2014/15 vaccine provided low protection against the main circulating A(H3N2) strain in the UK this season, but it's important to remember that over the last decade the flu vaccine has usually provided good to moderate protection against the main circulating strains each year.

PHE encourages everyone who is eligible, to receive the flu vaccine each winter – vaccination still remains the best protection we have against an unpredictable virus which can cause severe illness and deaths in at-risk groups, including older people, pregnant women and those with a health condition, even one that is well managed.”

Background

The WHO convenes a group that reviews the global influenza situation (once each year for the northern hemisphere and once for the southern hemisphere) and recommends which flu strains should go in the seasonal vaccine to be produced by manufacturers for the following season six to eight months later. This recommendation is based on information about the circulating viruses and epidemiological data from around the world at that time.

Details of the WHO announcement are available at [web link 3](#).

Latest shingles vaccine uptake figures released

Coverage of the shingles vaccine for the routine and catch-up cohorts for the first half of the 2014/15 programme is comparable with that recorded for the same time period last year. In summary, overall coverage of the shingles vaccination programme in England in February 2015 was 48.7% for the routine 70-year-old cohort (compared with 50.5% at the same point in 2014), 50.3% in the 79-year-old catch-up cohort (compared with 49.2% at the same point in 2014), and 48.1% in the 78-year-old catch-up cohort. Full details are available at [web link 4](#).

Impressive pertussis vaccine uptake in pregnant women

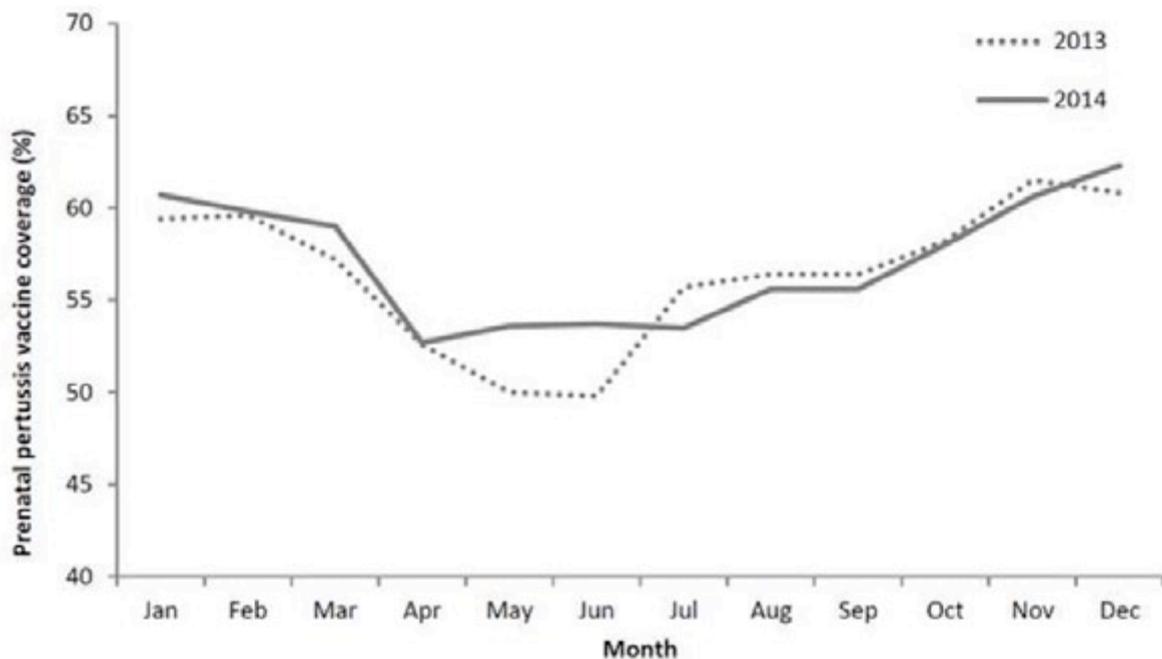


Figure 1. Prenatal pertussis vaccine coverage in England, January to December 2014, with 2013 data for comparison

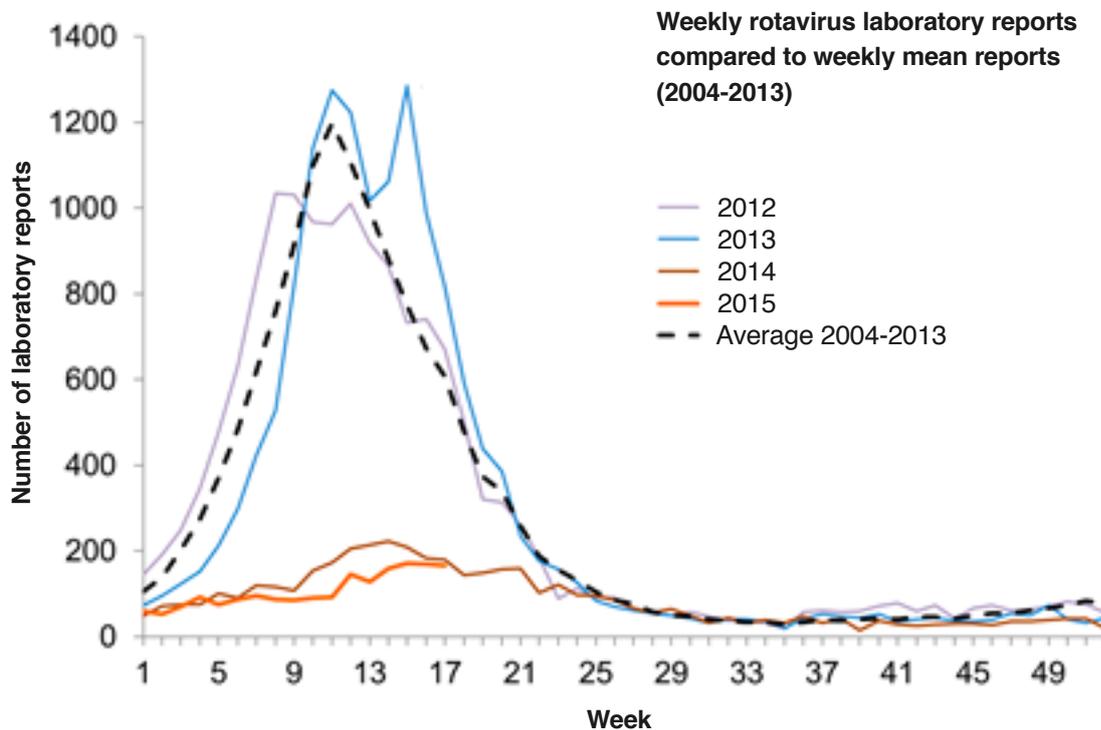
The latest figures show that pertussis vaccine coverage in pregnant women increased from 55.6% in September to 62.3% in December 2014, the highest monthly coverage recorded since the programme started in October 2012. Comparison of monthly coverage figures in 2013 and 2014 reveals an increase in coverage from September 2013 to the early months of 2014, and from September 2014 to December 2014 which coincides with the delivery of the seasonal influenza vaccination programme (see graph).

During the flu campaign, GP practices actively call and recall eligible patients, which should include pregnant women, and this may be having a positive knock-on effect on pregnant women being offered pertussis vaccine at the same time.

If coverage, and ultimately the impact of the programme itself, is to be accurately monitored, it is essential that GPs and practice nurses ensure that vaccination and date of delivery are recorded in the patient's GP record. GPs and midwives should continue to encourage pregnant women to book an appointment to receive the pertussis vaccine, ideally between weeks 28 and 32 of their pregnancy (but up to week 38), to further reduce the incidence of pertussis disease in young infants.

See [web link 6](#) for the full report.

Rotavirus infections continue to run below last year's levels



The good news story of the rotavirus vaccination continues with laboratory reports of the disease at 77% below the ten-season average. See [web link 7](#) for detailed information.

Influenza in India? Is it safe to travel?

There have been recent reports of flu circulating in India causing concern among those planning their holidays or business trips but there is no need to worry. The flu virus that caused the 'swine flu' pandemic in 2009 – A(H1N1)pdm09 – is now a 'seasonal' flu strain that circulates in different places around the world each year. It is the current dominant strain of influenza that has been reported in India this season. The A(H1N1)pdm09 virus strain is included in the current northern hemisphere seasonal influenza vaccine, which will provide good protection to those who have received the vaccine.

The World Health Organization has recently held their northern hemisphere vaccine composition meeting to provide recommendations for the vaccine for 2015/16. The meeting confirmed that there is no significant change in the virus itself and have recommended the same A(H1N1)pdm09 virus strain for next season – see [web link 8](#). For more information on vaccinations and travelling to India, see [web links 9 and 10](#).

Accessing patient information leaflets (PILs)

Some parents, having received an invitation for their child to have a routine vaccination, may wish to read the PIL relating to the vaccine before attending for the appointment. As it's clearly impractical to wait for parents to read the PIL when they arrive for the appointment, PILs for vaccines and other medicines are available on the electronic Medicines Compendium at [web link 11](#). You may wish to advise parents of this facility when sending out vaccination invitation letters.

Resources

Meningitis symptoms updated

The list of symptoms of meningitis has been updated in the pdfs of these four leaflets to include 'stiff with jerky movements (convulsions/fits)'. The printed leaflets will be updated when they are next reprinted. The leaflets can be viewed at [web links 18, 19, 20 and 21](#) respectively.



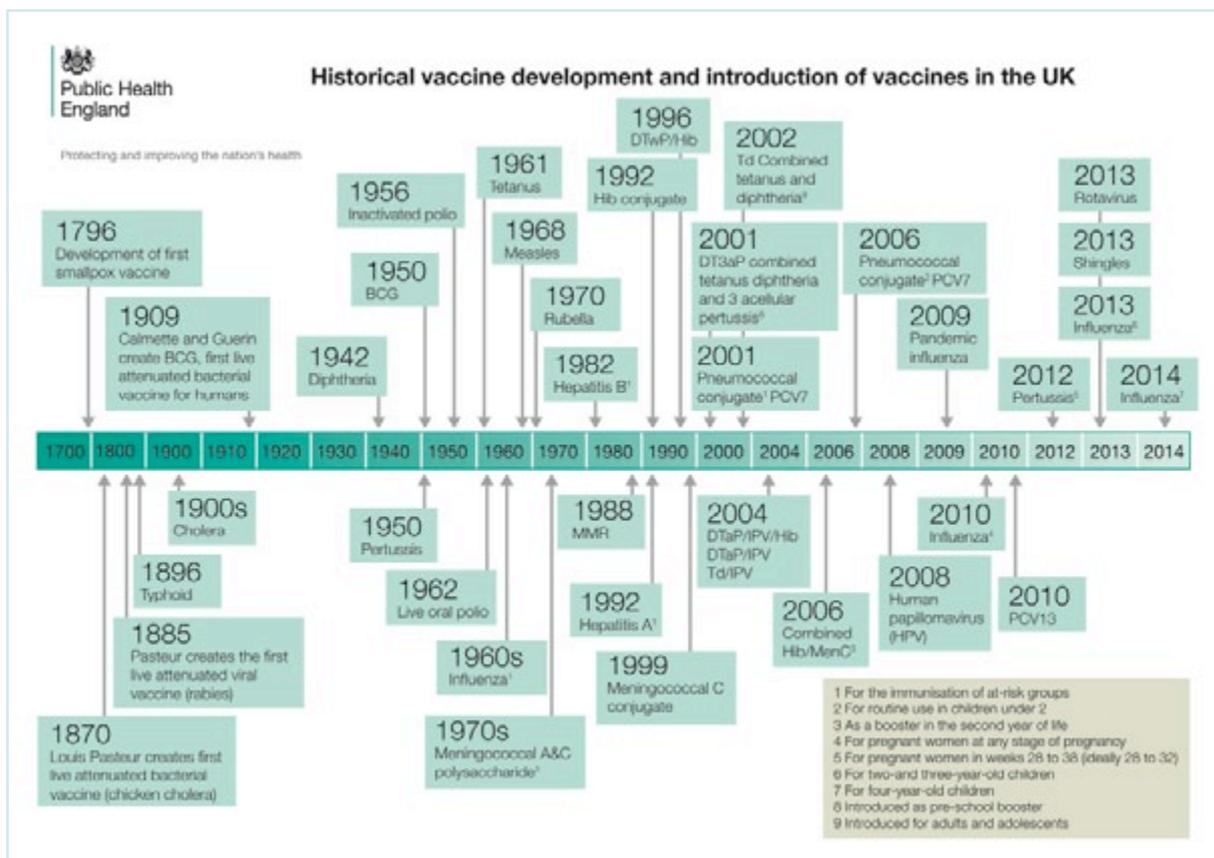
Green Book Pertussis chapter updated

This chapter has been largely rewritten and can be viewed at [web link 16](#).

Looking for translations of immunisation leaflets?

The NHS Choices website has a facility that translates immunisation and other health information from English into a range of other languages – see [web link 14](#).

Vaccination timeline updated again



This chart has been retrospectively updated again with the following changes:

- DTwP/Hib vaccination was introduced in 1996
- PCV7 was introduced in 2001 and 2006
- DT3aP was introduced in 2001
- Td was introduced in 2001
- PCV13 was introduced in 2010

It can be viewed at [web link 12](#).

Immunising primary school children against flu – briefing for head teachers and other school staff

This guidance for head teachers and other school staff answers the most frequently-asked questions regarding the nasal spray flu vaccination being offered to all children in school years 1 and 2 and, in some parts of the country, all primary school aged children.

It's available in pdf format for local downloading and printing at [web link 5](#).



Vaccine supply

Shingles vaccine (Zostavax)

A reminder that the second year of the shingles programme runs until **31 August 2015**, and that you should not delay offering Zostavax to this year's eligible cohorts (those who were aged 70, 78 and 79 years on 1 September 2014).

Please continue to order your Zostavax for this year's programme at the same time as you order childhood vaccines.

BCG vaccine ordering temporarily on hold

PHE is experiencing delays with the supply of BCG vaccine from the manufacturer and ordering through ImmForm has now been stopped.

We expect to open ordering again later in May.

Please note that each pack of BCG vaccine contains ten vials with a minimum of ten doses per vial (i.e. 100 doses) and efforts should be made to ensure efficient use of existing local stocks to avoid wastage.

Where local stocks remain, healthcare professionals are encouraged to prioritise the limited stock for the protection of very young individuals to prevent military tuberculosis and tuberculosis meningitis (see issue 288 at [web link 15](#)).

Availability of Infanrix IPV Hib and Pediacel

Pediacel is available to order alongside Infanrix IPV Hib for the primary infant vaccination.

Although Pediacel and Infanrix IPV Hib are interchangeable, ideally, if local stock allows, the same DTaP-containing vaccine should be used for all three doses of the primary course. Vaccination should never be delayed because the vaccine used for previous doses is not known or unavailable.

Spring Bank holiday deliveries

Due to the Spring Bank holiday, there will be **no deliveries or order processing** by Movianto UK on Monday 25 May 2015. Please see the table below for revised order and delivery dates.

For customers with standard delivery dates of Monday, please be aware that:

- after 18 May, your next available delivery day will be 1 June 2015

You are reminded to be prepared for the break in deliveries and to order accordingly. Please make sure you have sufficient room in your fridge for any additional vaccine you wish to stock over this holiday period, bearing in mind the recommendation that only two to four weeks' of vaccine stock be held at any one time.

Spring Bank holiday orders and deliveries – revised table

Please be advised that Emergency or “Out of Schedule” deliveries cannot be arranged for failure to place orders in good time.

Spring Bank holiday		
Delivery date	Order cut-off date	Order cut-off time
Monday 18 May	Thursday 14 May	11:55 am
Tuesday 19 May	Friday 15 May	11:55 am
Wednesday 20 May	Monday 18 May	11:55 am
Thursday 21 May	Tuesday 19 May	11:55 am
Friday 22 May	Wednesday 20 May	11:55 am
Monday 25 May	Closed – No DELIVERIES	
Tuesday 26 May	Thursday 21 May	11:55 am
Wednesday 27 May	Friday 22 May	11:55 am
Thursday 28 May	Tuesday 26 May	11:55 am
Friday 29 May	Wednesday 27 May	11:55 am

Word puzzle for the Spring Bank Holiday

Check on your knowledge of vaccines and vaccinations by completing this puzzle. You'll have to print it out to fill it in.

Scroll down for the answers – no cheating!

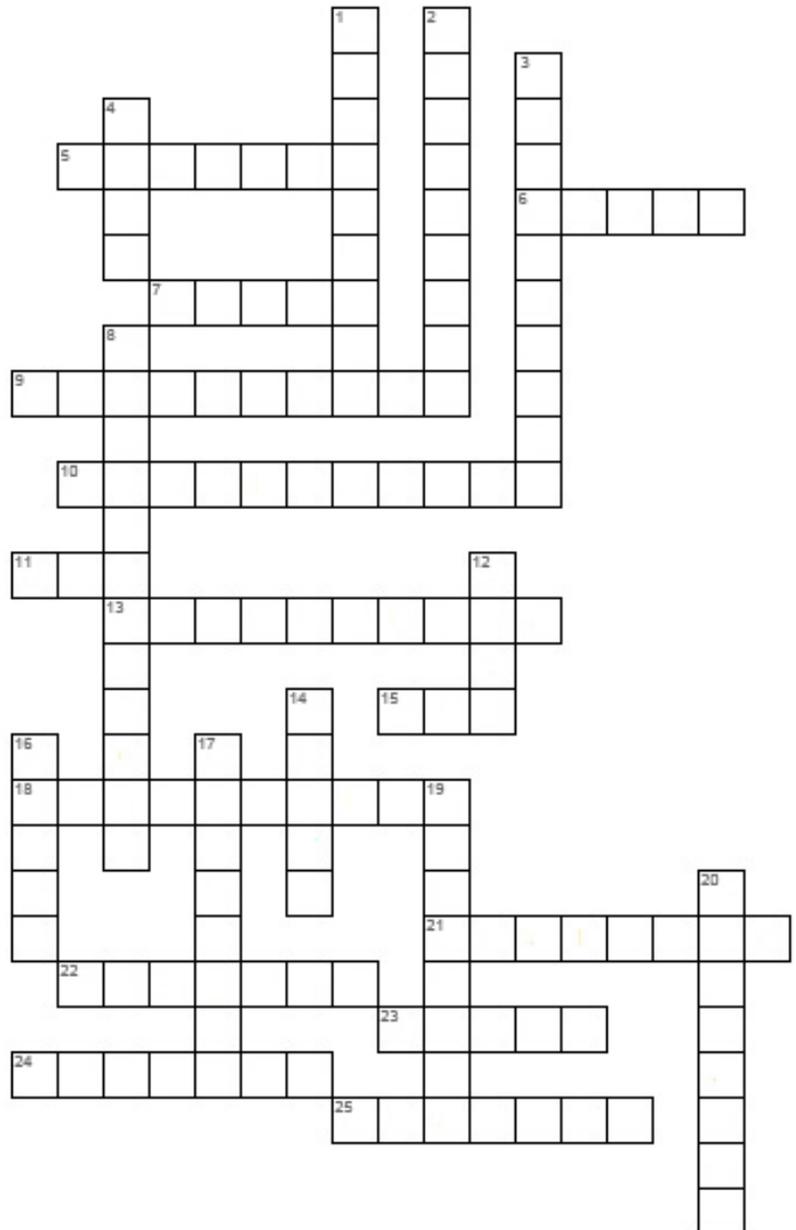
Across

5. One of the most infectious diseases known to man (7)
6. School year in which girls should have the HPV vaccine (5)
7. Age in months when second routine immunisations are given (5)
9. The disease that new parents fear the most (10)
10. Percentage of healthcare workers who should be vaccinated against flu (11)
11. Number of doses of HPV vaccine girls should have (3)
13. Preventable disease that should be avoided in pregnancy (10)
15. It doesn't cause autism (3)
18. Baby's first routine immunisation (10)
21. Disease that has been eradicated by vaccination (8)
22. Preventable disease that should be avoided in pregnancy (7)
23. How rotavirus vaccine is administered (5)
24. Age at which routine shingles vaccine is given (7)
25. One of the types of HPV that causes most types of cervical cancer (7)

Down

1. How to check if someone has septicaemia (5-4)
2. Early protection against vomiting and diarrhoea (9)
3. Percentage vaccine uptake required to get herd immunity (6-4)
4. Vaccine for university freshers (4)
8. Vaccine that protects against pneumonia (12)
12. Age in months when third routine immunisations are given (4)
14. A side effect of some vaccines (5)
16. The teenage booster immunisation (5)
17. One of the types of HPV that causes most cases of cervical cancer (8)
19. Vaccine that helps prevent whooping cough in pregnancy (8)
20. Vaccine that helps prevent a very painful disease in older people (8)

Immunisation puzzle

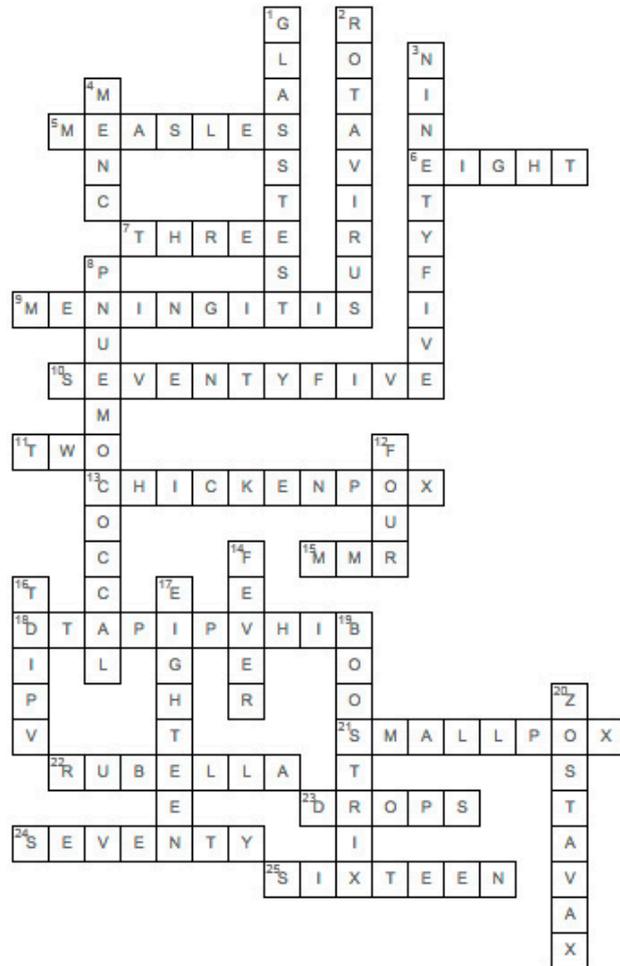


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Immunisation puzzle answers

Web links

- web link 1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/meningococcal-group-w-menw-immunisation-advised-for-14-to-18-year-olds>
- web link 2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-papillomavirus-hpv-immunisation-programme-review-2008-to-2014>
- web link 3 <http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/consultation201502/en/>
- web link 4 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/424007/hpr1415_shngls_vc.pdf
- web link 5 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-for-primary-school-children-advice-for-headteachers>
- web link 6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-immunisation-in-pregnancy-vaccine-coverage-estimates-in-england-october-2013-to-march-2014>
- web link 7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/norovirus-national-update>
- web link 8 http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/201502_recommendation.pdf?ua=1
- web link 9 [http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/asia-\(east\)/india.aspx#immunisations](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/asia-(east)/india.aspx#immunisations)
- web link 10 https://www.nathnac.org/ds/c_pages/country_page_in.htm
- web link 11 www.medicines.org.uk/emc
- web link 12 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccination-timeline>
- web link 13 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-protection-against-meningitis-c-leaflet>
- web link 14 <http://www.nhs.uk/aboutNHSCoices/aboutnhscoices/Aboutus/Pages/languagehub.aspx>
- web link 15 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-228-april-2015>
- web link 16 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-the-green-book-chapter-24>
- web link 17 <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>
- web link 18 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-immunisations-for-babies-up-to-13-months-of-age#history>
- web link 19 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-quick-guide-to-childhood-immunisation-for-the-parents-of-premature-babies>
- web link 20 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisations-between-12-and-13-months-of-age>
- web link 21 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-school-immunisations-a-guide-to-vaccinations-at-3-years-and-4-months-of-age>