

Protect your child Be wise - immunise

Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
An Roinn Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí

From The Chief Medical Officer:
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HIB Immunisation Campaign

date as postmarked

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety are introducing an extra dose of *Haemophilus influenzae b* (Hib) Vaccine during 2003 for all children aged between 6 months and 4 years on 1st April 2003 and including children who become 6 months old before the end of the campaign. Thus all children born between 2nd April 1999 and 12th March 2003 will be offered an additional dose of Hib Vaccine. The campaign will commence on 12th May 2003 and will run for four months. This extra dose of Hib Vaccine is needed to respond to the recent rise in cases of Hib disease both here in Northern Ireland and in other parts of the UK.

To support health professionals in the delivery of this campaign the Department, in conjunction with the Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland, have developed this Information Pack. The Pack contains the following:

1. An **Information Leaflet for all Parents** – parents will receive a copy of this leaflet along with their invitation for immunisation directly from the local Child Health System.
2. An **A3 Poster** for display in GP surgeries and other health care settings.
3. A detailed **Hib Factsheet** to inform health professionals who will be dealing with parent's queries in this area.
4. A **Factsheet on Diphtheria Tetanus wholecell Pertussis (DTwP) Vaccine**.

Prior to the introduction of Hib Vaccine in Northern Ireland Hib disease was a cause of significant morbidity in Northern Ireland with almost 30 cases of Hib disease per year. Hib is a serious infection which can cause meningitis, septicaemia, epiglottitis, pneumonia and pericarditis. Approximately 1 in 20 children who develop Hib meningitis will die. It is important that we offer all children aged 4 and under adequate protection against Hib disease and we thank you for your support in delivering this campaign in Northern Ireland.

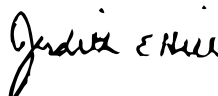
Further information on this campaign and other aspects of Hib disease are available on the websites:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk
www.meningitis.org
www.meningitis-trust.org.uk
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publichealth

Yours sincerely



DR H CAMPBELL
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



MISS J HILL
CHIEF NURSING OFFICER