HSC Public Health Agency

MMRV selective catch-up 1st November 2026



October 2026

A one-dose MMRV selective catch-up vaccination programme will commence on 1st November 2026 to help accelerate control and reduce transmission of varicella (chickenpox) in the population. The programme will cease on 31st March 2028.

MMRV catch-up is aimed at children with dates of birth **on or between 1st January 2020 and 31st August 2022** (*children aged 3 years 4 months to under 6 years on 31st December 2025*) without a history of chickenpox disease or two doses of varicella vaccination.

- To support with identifying eligible children, your local Child Health office will send each practice a list of registered children who may be eligible (according to the DOB range).
- The Child Health System (CHS) will not contact parents directly for this selective catch up programme.
- CHS will send updated lists during the campaign on a quarterly basis, to ensure all children are called.
- Practices should validate this information and let Child Health know if there are any corrections required
- A template invitation letter for parents/guardians is available on PHA website and Primary Care intranet
- Clinics may be scheduled at the practice's discretion during the catch-up period, for example, weekly, monthly, or as one large clinic.
- Please record the vaccination on the **updated CHS7 (unscheduled Vaccination Form)** available on PHA website (link on page 3) and return to your local CHS office as soon as possible. Late CHS7 returns will result in child who has received the vaccine showing in the next quarterly report.



Selective Catch-up Publications
New publications for the selective catch-up will be sent directly to GP practices including a poster and public facing leaflet. The QR code and link is available on page 3 to support digital invitations.

Publications

A suite of updated PHA public facing leaflets and professional resources for 2027 will be available on the PHA website.

Child Health will receive copies of all public facing leaflets, and a small supply will go to GP practices along with professional resources in November.

QR code and links to the updated online versions will be in December including translations, available on page 3.



Clinical Education

Educational webinars for clinical staff have taken place in conjunction with GPNI and the Clinical Education Centre. If you didn't get a chance to attend, links to recorded sessions are available on page 3.



A final lunchtime webinar will take place 11th November at 1pm.

Northern Ireland-specific training slides are available on the PHA SharePoint site (link on page 3).

PCHR (the red book)

Don't forget to update the Red book/PCHR.
Please record on P58 under additional vaccines.

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MMRV vaccines ordering and use

Available vaccines:
Two MMRV vaccines are supplied as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme - ProQuad® and Priorix-Tetra®. They are clinically equivalent, interchangeable, and are the only MMR-containing vaccines used in the childhood programme.

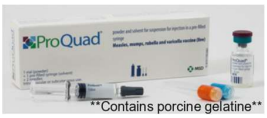
Preferred product:
ProQuad® is the first-line vaccine for all MMRV vaccinations. Priorix-Tetra® should only be ordered when a porcine gelatine-free option is required.

Ordering process:
MMRV vaccine stock should be ordered through your usual arrangements for obtaining childhood vaccines. Do not order more than TWO weeks of vaccine stock in advance of any clinics.

Storage requirements:
MMRV vaccines must be stored in a vaccine refrigerator between +2°C and +8°C. For any cold-chain breaches - refer to the **SPPG/PHA guidance on vaccine storage and handling in GP practices.**

MMR vaccine stock:
Whilst MMR vaccine stock remains available, it is not part of the routine childhood programme. It should only be used for eligible adults and older children who are not eligible for MMRV. Please refer to the **incomplete immunisation algorithm for guidance.**

Varicella (single-antigen) vaccine:
The single-antigen varicella vaccine is not available for use in the HSC routine childhood immunisation programme. Practices should use the combined MMRV vaccine to deliver the catch-up programme.

MMRV Vaccines	
ProQuad®- SmPC Link	Priorix-Tetra® - SmPC Link
	
1 dose per pack	10 doses per pack

Important note on Priorix-Tetra packaging:

Please be aware that the packaging of Priorix-Tetra may cause confusion. The black box on the carton states “1 dose 0.5 mL”, which can be misinterpreted in two ways:

- Stock management risk: Vaccinators may assume the pack contains only a single dose, potentially leading to unnecessary over-ordering and stock wastage.
- Administration risk: There is also a risk of overdose if vaccinators mistakenly believe that all 10 pre-filled syringes together represent one single dose, rather than 10 individual doses.

Practices are advised to ensure vaccinators and admin staff are briefed on this packaging issue to avoid errors in ordering and administration. Please remember 1 pack of Priorix-Tetra contains 10 doses.

Useful links and resources

All resources are available at:
Information for healthcare and other professionals | HSC Public Health Agency

Public facing leaflets and communication resources	
PHA public facing leaflet and poster	pha.site/MMRV-Catch-up
PHA public communications resources	Childhood immunisation programme
NI Direct resources	Childhood immunisation programme | nidirect Vaccines | nidirect Measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMRV) vaccine | nidirect Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine | nidirect Chickenpox | nidirect
Vaccine Knowledge Project	Home | Vaccine Knowledge Project
Professional reference resources (policy and official guidance)	
HSS (CMO) Policy Letter	DoH Policy letter
PGD	PGDs/National Protocols – Primary Care Intranet
Green Book chapters	Measles: Chapter 21 Mumps: Chapter 23 Rubella: Chapter 28 Varicella: Chapter 34 The UK immunisation schedule: Chapter 11
MMRV factsheet for healthcare professionals	MMRV factsheet for healthcare professionals | HSC Public Health Agency.
Guidance notes for professionals (childhood vaccines)	Immunisation guidance notes for professionals | HSC Public Health Agency
CHS7 update November 2026 (unscheduled vaccination form)	Phase 3 - CHS7 Immunisation Unscheduled Attendance Form (November 2026).pdf
Template invitation letter	Information for healthcare and other professionals | HSC Public Health Agency
Visual guide to vaccines	A visual guide to vaccines | HSC Public Health Agency
Routine childhood immunisation eligibility calculator	Childhood immunisation eligibility calculator
Incomplete vaccination status algorithm	Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation - GOV.UK
Vaccines and porcine gelatine webpage and leaflet:	Vaccines and porcine gelatine - GOV.UK
MMRV and febrile convulsions webpage and leaflet:	MMRV and febrile convulsions - GOV.UK
Reporting adverse reactions (Yellow Card Scheme)	Yellow Card | Making medicines and medical devices safer
Electronic Medicines Compendium	electronic medicines compendium (emc)

Professional training resources

GPNI webinar – Changes to the childhood schedule phase 3 Selective catch up:
GPNI Vaccination Update: MMRV Catchup - GPNI

Clinical Education Centre webinar – Changes to the childhood schedule phase 3 selective catch up:

NHS eLearning for healthcare (elfh) NHSE: NHSE elfh Hub

- National immunisation policy and programmes
- Immunology and types of vaccine
- Vaccine preventable diseases
- Communicating with patients, parents and carers
- Legal aspects
- Vaccine storage
- Vaccine administration

PHA SharePoint:

- **Immunisation & Vaccination Resources Dashboard**

Conversations to build trust in vaccination: A training module for health workers | World Health Organisation 2017

- **Vaccination and trust: How concerns arise and the role of communication in mitigating crises**

SPPG and PHA Guidance on Vaccine Handling and Storage in GP Practices

- **Guidance on vaccine handling and storage in GP practices | HSC Public Health Agency**