

# Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine

## Q&As on use in Children

### **Can Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine be used in children?**

Yes, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 Vaccine for use in anyone over 6 months of age. Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine Junior is designed for use in children under 3 years of age, it comes as a single-dose pre-filled syringe. Children 3 years and over will be given Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine which comes in a multi-dose vial.

### **What is the dose for children?**

Children 6 months to 35 months:	0.25 mL dose (7.5 microgram)
Adults and children from 36 months:	0.5 mL dose (15 microgram)

Children from 6 months to less than 10 years should receive two doses of vaccine, with the second dose given after an interval of at least 4 weeks.

Adults, adolescents and children 10 years of age and older should receive a single dose.

### **Why do children from 6 months to less than 10 years require a second dose of the vaccine?**

The TGA's recommendation for a 2 dose regimen for children from 6 months to less than 10 years of age is consistent with the dosage recommendations for ordinary seasonal influenza vaccines. Two doses of seasonal influenza vaccines at least one month apart are recommended for children aged from 6 months to less than 10 years of age who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time.

### **Is there a paediatric presentation of the vaccine?**

Yes, registration of Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine Junior has been approved by the TGA. Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine Junior is a single use 0.25mL pre-filled syringe for use in infants aged 6 months to less than 3 years. Children 3 years and over will be given Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine which comes in a multi-dose vial.

### **When will Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine Junior be made available for children under the age of 3 years old?**

From mid-December, GPs and other vaccine providers should have supplies of the Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 Junior vaccine for use in children from 6 to 35 months of age.

### **When can children aged 3 to 10 years old start receiving the Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine from the multi-dose vials already supplied to immunisation providers?**

The TGA has approved Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 Vaccine for use in anyone over 6 months of age. The Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine is available through a range of locations including GP offices, vaccination clinics and health care centres. Children aged 3 to 10 years of age can be vaccinated with Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 vaccine from the multi-dose vials now.

### **Is Panvax<sup>®</sup> H1N1 Vaccine safe to use in children?**

Preliminary results from a study in children showed that the vaccine was generally well tolerated with a safety and tolerability profile consistent with that seen with seasonal flu vaccines. The most commonly reported side effects were injection site tenderness or pain, and flu-like symptoms. The majority were mild to moderate in intensity.

**My patient has already received their seasonal influenza vaccine dose/s. Can they be given two influenza vaccines in one season?**

There is no reason to expect that it would not be safe to receive both the seasonal influenza vaccine and Panvax<sup>®</sup>H1N1 vaccine in one season.

The paediatric studies evaluated the immunogenicity, safety and tolerability of Panvax<sup>®</sup>H1N1 vaccine. Children who had previously received a seasonal influenza vaccine were not excluded from this trial. A proportion of the participants had been vaccinated previously with the seasonal influenza vaccine.

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**Does Panvax<sup>®</sup>H1N1 vaccine contain thiomersal?**

Panvax<sup>®</sup>H1N1 vaccine Junior is designed for use in children under 3 years of age. It comes as a 0.25 mL single-dose pre-filled syringe which does not contain thiomersal or any preservative.

Children 3 years and over will be given Panvax<sup>®</sup>H1N1 vaccine which comes in a multi-dose vial and does contain a small amount of thiomersal. Thiomersal has been used as a preservative in vaccines for about 60 years and has a very long safety record.

**Why has thiomersal been removed from the vaccine for those under the age of 3 years, but not for children aged 3 years and above?**

Thiomersal is not included in Panvax<sup>®</sup>H1N1 vaccine Junior as it is a 0.25 mL single-dose pre-filled syringe which does not require any preservative.

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ATAGI (Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation) considers that influenza vaccines containing thiomersal are safe in infants, children, adolescents and adults (including pregnant women). *Link to ATAGI Advice regarding the use of influenza vaccines containing thiomersal:* [http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/national-vaccination-program/\\$file/thiomersal.pdf](http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/national-vaccination-program/$file/thiomersal.pdf)