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Dear Colleague

EXTENSION TO TEMPORARY PROGRAMME OF PERTUSSIS (Whooping Cough) VACCINATION OF PREGNANT WOMEN

1. Since October 2012, a temporary programme of pertussis vaccination of pregnant women has been in place. This was introduced in response to increased levels of pertussis activity across the UK since mid-2011. The details of the programme are set out in a CMO letter dated 28 September 2012 (SGHD/CMO(2012)9, available at [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2012\)09.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2012)09.pdf)).
2. We are writing to inform you that the temporary programme is being extended, pending a further decision from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Further advice on the programme will be provided in due course.
3. At the moment, advice on vaccine supply, delivery of the programme and contractual arrangements remain as set out in the CMO letter of 28 September 2012, although these arrangements will be reviewed in due course. In particular, revised contractual arrangements will be put in place. The programme should continue to be delivered through General Practice. Midwives should ensure that pregnant women are informed of the programme and advised to contact their GP surgery to arrange to be vaccinated. The clinical guidance set out at Annex A of the previous CMO letter on this subject remains relevant.
4. Since the vaccination programme started in October:
 - There have been 1,156 laboratory confirmed cases, 29 of these cases have been in infants under 3 months of age.

From the Chief Medical Officer
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SGHD/CMO(2013)3

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Medical Directors, NHS Boards
Directorate of Nursing & Midwifery, NHS Boards
Directors of Pharmacy
Directors of Public Health
General Practitioners
Practice Nurses
Immunisation Co-ordinators
CPHMs
Scottish Prison Service
Scottish Ambulance Service

For information

Chairs, NHS Boards
Infectious Disease Consultants
Consultant Paediatricians
Consultant Physicians
Consultants in Dental Public Health
Health Protection Scotland
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Further Enquiries

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- There have been no reported deaths across Scotland during 2012/13.
- Vaccination uptake rates amongst pregnant women across Scotland have reached 78.1.

5. We would like to extend our thanks to staff for undertaking this important work.

Yours sincerely

Harry Burns

Ros Moore

Bill Scott

SIR HARRY BURNS
Chief Medical Officer

ROS MOORE
Chief Nursing Officer

PROFESSOR BILL SCOTT
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer