

The Danish Childhood Vaccination Program

**Steffen Glismann
Statens Serum Institut**

The Danish childhood vaccination programme is organised within the public health sector and all vaccines given are free of charge. Almost all vaccines in the programme are given by General Practitioners in their clinics and a small number of vaccines are given at hospitals to specific risk patients.

An update of the Danish Childhood Vaccination Programme can be seen on www.euvac.net. The vaccination schedule is followed in all parts of the country.

Other childhood vaccines than those included in the programme, e.g. conjugated pneumococcal vaccine, meningococcal C vaccine and varicella vaccine are available and recommendations are given for certain risk groups. However, these vaccines are to be paid either by the parents or by the hospital, if the vaccine is given there.

The interpandemic influenza vaccine is given free of charge to all persons \geq 65 years. There are recommendations for the interpandemic influenza vaccine and the 23-valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine to other risk groups but these vaccines are to be paid by the vaccinee or the hospital, if given there.

All vaccines in Denmark are purchased and delivered by Statens Serum Institut, i.e. both vaccines in the Childhood Vaccination Programme as well as vaccines to the private market.

On behalf of the National Board of Health, Statens Serum Institut is in charge of surveillance of the vaccination programme, including coverage estimates. Data on vaccination coverage are published annually in the newsletter EPI-NEWS which can be viewed on www.ssi.dk, where also information about the vaccines can be seen.

A production of the following vaccines is based at Statens Serum Institut: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Inactivated Polio Virus (IPV) and Tuberculosis (BCG). A pertussis vaccine is in the pipeline.