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Vaccines in the news: product shortages

Update on vaccine availability and risk assessment for pre-travel vaccination

NaTHNaC is aware that vaccine shortages occur occasionally for a variety of reasons. We have published a factsheet: [Vaccine supply, shortages and use of unlicensed medicines](#) to support health professions advising travellers when vaccine availability is limited.

Advice for travellers

Ideally, visit your GP, travel clinic or pharmacy at least four to six weeks before you travel. Your health professional can tell you about current availability of travel vaccines and advise you of any measures you need to take to minimise travel related risks.

Advice for health professionals

Health professionals experiencing difficulties obtaining vaccines are encouraged to contact their usual supplier for information and advice.

When vaccine supplies are restricted, health professionals should prioritise vaccine use; an effective [risk assessment](#) will ensure vaccine recommendations are appropriate, help identify higher risk travellers, and give priority to those who are most vulnerable.

Public Health England regularly publishes a free newsletter: [Vaccine update](#) which health professionals can subscribe to.

Resources

- [General Immunisation resources for health professionals](#)
- [Risk Assessment/Risk Management checklist](#)