



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

## CHILDREN FROM HOMES TO RECEIVE FREE VACCINATION AGAINST PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE

### Pfizer Malaysia donates **1315** vials in conjunction with World Children's Day

**Petaling Jaya, 22 November 2010** – Children from several homes will be vaccinated against pneumococcal disease, thanks to a donation of **1315** vaccines from Pfizer Malaysia in conjunction with World Children's Day.

Arranged through the efforts of Positive Parenting, an expert education programme initiated by the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA), Pfizer Malaysia made a donation of **1315** vials of pneumococcal vaccines at Positive Parenting's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Carnival at Sunway Pyramid Shopping Centre. **The carnival was launched by YABhg Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, during which she was presented with a large box of the pneumococcal vaccine to signify the donation of the vaccines.**

Pneumococcal diseases remain a leading cause of death among children below the age of five, worldwide, despite the fact that a safe and effective vaccine has been available since 2000.<sup>1</sup>

"Many children worldwide do not have access to pneumococcal vaccination, which protects against infections in the brain, blood, lungs and middle ear," said Angel Choi, Managing Director of Pfizer Malaysia-Brunei.

There are more than 90 strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, the bacteria responsible for causing pneumococcal diseases<sup>2</sup>, and the 13 most common strains are responsible for causing 80-92% of invasive pneumococcal diseases.<sup>3</sup>

"The present 13-strain vaccine offers broader protection against pneumococcal disease than has previously been possible, and that is a good reason to celebrate. However, existing data from many sources tell us that awareness of the disease and its prevention is low, hence there is much more to be done in order to increase awareness and access to the vaccine," added Choi.

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<sup>1</sup> Acute Respiratory Infections (Update September 2009): Streptococcus pneumonia. World Health Organization, [http://www.who.int/vaccine\\_research/diseases/ari/en/index3.html](http://www.who.int/vaccine_research/diseases/ari/en/index3.html)

<sup>2</sup> Gavi's PneumoADIP, GSP Summary Report (Stage 1; Version 1). Accessed from [http://www.preventpneumo.org/results/pneumoadip\\_activities/surveillance\\_and\\_research/upload/R\\_S-Report-Final1207.pdf](http://www.preventpneumo.org/results/pneumoadip_activities/surveillance_and_research/upload/R_S-Report-Final1207.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> GAVI Pneumo ADIP, Surveillance and Research Report (November 2007)



Widespread pneumococcal vaccination can have a significantly positive impact on public health, and in the United States, vaccination was 97.4% effective in preventing serotype-specific infections in infants who were fully vaccinated.<sup>4</sup> As a result, pneumococcal vaccination is being used in many different countries worldwide as part of their National Immunization Programmes, from Australia<sup>5</sup> and Britain<sup>6</sup> to Singapore<sup>7</sup> and the United States<sup>8</sup>.

### **About Pfizer Malaysia**

Pfizer Malaysia is committed towards Working Together for a Healthier World™. We apply our global resources and strive to set the standard for quality, safety and value of medicines to improve the health and well-being of Malaysians at every stage of life. Our diversified health care portfolio includes human biologic, small molecule medicines and vaccines in Biopharmaceuticals, as well as a wide range of Nutritional products.

We also collaborate closely with public and private health care providers, and communities to support and expand access to reliable, affordable health care in Malaysia. Pfizer Malaysia began operations in 1964, and every day, some 500 colleagues throughout the country work to advance wellness and make a difference for all who rely on us.

Wyeth is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Pfizer Inc. The merger of Wyeth Malaysia and Pfizer Malaysia entities may be pending in various jurisdictions and integration is subject to completion of various local legal and regulatory obligations.

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<sup>4</sup> Black S, Shinefield H, Fireman B, et al. Efficacy, safety and immunogenicity of heptavalent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in children. *Pediatr Infect Dis J.* 2000;19:187-195.

<sup>5</sup> National Immunisation Program Schedule.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/content/nips2>, last accessed 13 October 2010

<sup>6</sup> British National Vaccination Schedule. <http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk/advice/advice-for-travellers/british-vaccination-schedule.aspx>, last accessed 13 October 2010

<sup>7</sup> 2010 Child & Adolescent Immunization Schedules, Centers for Disease Control.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm#parents>, last accessed 13 October 2010

<sup>8</sup> Vaccination Guide for Children in Singapore,

[http://childrenimmunisation.com.sg/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=29](http://childrenimmunisation.com.sg/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=29), last accessed 13 October 2010