

Dear Parent/Guardian

Immunisations at Secondary School

Your child is due their Tetanus/Diphtheria/Polio (Td/IPV) and Meningitis ACWY vaccines. These immunisations will be offered in school within the next month. Please see your school's communications letters/emails for the planned immunisation session date.

We would like parents to complete and sign the attached consent form. It is important for you to discuss and complete the consent form with your child. Please return the consent form to school within the next two weeks. If your child has already had the vaccinations elsewhere please complete the details on the form and return so that we can update your child's records.

Please be aware that if we do not receive a completed consent form before the vaccination session we will look to offer your child the opportunity to self-consent on the day. This is in line with the Gillick Competency Framework, see NHS Choices website; consent to treatment children and young people at the following web address:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Consent-to-treatment/Pages/Children-under-16.aspx>

Please be assured that if we receive a written refusal of consent we will not vaccinate your child.

The national childhood immunisations programme has meant that many dangerous diseases such as Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio (Td/IPV) have practically disappeared in the UK. Unfortunately, this is not the same for all countries and cases of these diseases continue to be seen worldwide, including Europe. Similarly, immunisations for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and Meningitis have drastically reduced the number of people contracting these serious infections. Therefore, it is important that we continue to immunise our children and teenagers in order to maintain the high level of protection found in the UK.

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio (Td/IPV)

Young people need a total of five doses of Td/IPV vaccine to build up and keep their immunity. These are given as follows:

- The first three doses as a baby (DTaP/IPV/Hib)
- The fourth dose when they were between three and five years old. Preschool booster (DTaP/IPV)
- **The fifth dose is due now**

Meningococcal ACWY

Due to an increase in the number of cases of Meningitis W in adolescents and university aged students, protection against Meningitis W has been incorporated into the Meningococcal vaccine. The ACWY booster for protection against Meningococcal bacteria is now recommended for teenagers in addition to those doses previously received as a baby. This has been added to the Teenage Immunisation Schedule, to extend protection against Meningococcal strains ACWY into early adulthood.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)

This is a good time to check that two doses of MMR have been received. If your child has only received one dose, then your GP/Practice Nurse can give the second dose now. If your child has never received the MMR vaccine and you would now like them to **please contact your GP to book an appointment** for your child to catch up with these missed vaccinations.

For more information on any of these vaccines please visit the NHS Choices Website

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations> and click on the children/teens tab for detailed information on the importance of vaccination, diseases protected against and the UK vaccination schedule.

If your child is absent on the day of planned vaccinations, you will be offered the opportunity to bring them to a community based vaccination clinic.

If you have any queries please contact the 0-19 Universal Children's Services Team on 0300 111 1022 option 4 for the 0-19 team, followed by option 1 for immunisation queries.