

## HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccination for your child.

All pupils in year 8 are offered the HPV vaccination at their school. This is a national routine school age programme offered to all children of 12-13 years of age throughout the UK. This important vaccine protects against different types of cancer.

Your child was due to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine this year at school.

Due to the Coronavirus and school closures, our normal school sessions have been cancelled.

Despite COVID-19, the NHS and Public Health England (PHE) are still emphasizing the importance of children receiving their usual routine vaccines. These diseases have not gone away despite school closures, so it is really important that children receive these vaccines when they are due.

Vaccination UK are now providing this vaccine in school clinic settings. You will find information about where and when these clinics are being held in your area attached to this letter.

These clinics will be run on an appointment basis to ensure that we strictly limit numbers at any one time, and social distancing is observed. Please note, temperatures will be taken on arrival and if the pupil has a fever, they will be sent home. Staff will be wearing PPE in order to protect pupils as much as possible and hand sanitiser will be available and should be used upon arrival.

We would ask that if you cannot attend the appointment that you provide us with 24 hours notice so that someone else can have the appointment.

Information is also available on our website: [www.schoolvaccination.uk](http://www.schoolvaccination.uk)

Please find enclosed some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about HPV and your child, in addition, leaflets explaining the programme and further information can be obtained using the following links:

**If you need further information you can also contact the school immunisation team on the email address or phone number below:**

- **Redbridge:** 0203 432 1537 or [redbridge@vaccinationuk.co.uk](mailto:redbridge@vaccinationuk.co.uk)

Information about the vaccination will be put on your child's health records, including records at their GP surgery. Please turn over for information on how we handle your child's data.

Please share this information with your child.

Yours Sincerely,

Redbridge School Immunisation Team

## HPV Vaccine - Frequently Asked Questions

### About the vaccine:

Gardasil activates the immune system to produce antibodies against 4 types of HPV (human papilloma virus). It does this by pretending to look like the virus. The vaccine does not contain any of the virus itself. It is highly effective and is endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). 270 million doses of this vaccine have been given globally.

## Providers for NHS England

### Why is my child being offered this vaccination?

The vaccine works best when given at age 12-13, when the immune system is strong and before your son or daughter becomes sexually active. Only two doses are needed (instead of three) if the vaccine is given before the age of 15. Both boys and girls need to get this vaccine because HPV infection is so common and some types of HPV cause cancer. Almost 90% of people get HPV infection if they are not vaccinated and there is no treatment for HPV infection. Most people's immune systems are able to clear HPV viruses in about 12 months and most people who catch HPV don't even know they have it. However, there are some types of HPV infection that can persist for decades, and these are the types that can cause cancers in both women and men. So, vaccinating people against HPV protects them from cancers caused by some types of HPV that don't clear up on their own.

### What does the vaccine protect against?

**In females:** cervical cancer, vulvar and vaginal cancer, anal cancer, genital warts, cancers of the head and neck such as throat and oral cancers.

**In males:** it protects against anal cancer, genital warts, penile cancer and cancers of the head and neck such as throat and oral cancers.

### How safe is the vaccine?

The HPV vaccination is very safe. This has been established through rigorous testing of many millions of doses throughout the world. As with any medicine some people may experience side effects, but these are generally mild and of short duration and far outweighed by the benefit of vaccination.

Researchers in the UK, the US, Scandinavia, Australia and several other countries have checked millions of medical records to see if people who get the HPV vaccine are more likely to suffer from rare health problems. They found that just as many unvaccinated people suffer from rare health problems as vaccinated people do. That means the vaccine can't be the cause of their health problems — even if they started very soon after vaccination. (1)

(1) WHO, Meeting of the GACVS, 7-8 June 2017. [Weekly Epidemiological Record 2017;28:393-404](#)

### Why are there rumours that this vaccine can have serious side effects?

Some groups are claiming on social media that vaccination could cause autoimmune disorders, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, or chronic regional pain syndrome. There was also a rumour that it could cause early menopause or infertility. These health problems are very rare and usually start around the same age that HPV is given, so it isn't surprising that people wonder if the vaccine caused the problem. However, independent scientists from all over the world have investigated and found that the rumours aren't true.

### What side effects can be expected?

The most common side effect is a mild swelling, tenderness or redness at the injection site. Other mild effects may possibly include a slight temperature, feeling achy, or nausea and diarrhoea. Very rarely some people have allergic reactions soon after immunisation called anaphylaxis. This type of reaction is *extremely rare* and the nurses are trained to deal with this extremely rare reaction in the event it may happen.

## Vaccination UK Privacy Notice 2020:

### Who is collecting the data?

Vaccination UK is collecting information about your child to ensure that we have up to date health information about their health at the time that you are consenting for them to receive an immunisation. Their demographic information is used to ensure that we identify their electronic health record accurately.

### What data is being collected?

We ask for basic demographic data to allow us to identify them and their health record. The information about their health is utilised by the nurses to ensure that they can confirm that the immunisation is suitable for them.

**What is the legal basis for processing the data?**

Section 9 (2)(h) of the Data Protection Act 2018 allows for processing of your child's data for the provision of direct healthcare and the management of healthcare systems.

**Will the data be shared with any third parties?**

Your child's data will be shared with their General Practice (GP) and with the child health information system (CHIS) which holds immunisation and screening information for all children in the UK.

**How will the information be used?**

We collect data on consent forms to allow us to identify a person's health record if you have consented to their immunisation and to allow the nurses to make decisions about their care based on the most up to date information about their current health.

**How long will the data be stored for?**

The information will be stored on their electronic health record after their vaccination; this information will be then be available throughout their lifetime. Their paper records will be destroyed once they have been scanned on to their record.

**What rights does the data subject have?**

Data subjects have the right to request a copy of any data we request or record about them.

**How can you contact us with queries or concerns about this privacy notice?**

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the information that we hold about your child or have a question regarding this notice, please contact:

*Our Data Protection Officer:* James Hart, at: [j.hart@vaccinationuk.co.uk](mailto:j.hart@vaccinationuk.co.uk)

Providers for NHS England

**PLANNED DATES FOR IMMUNISATION:**

**Beal High School – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August & Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**A NURSE FROM THE IMMUNISATION TEAM WILL BE IN TOUCH TO OFFER YOU AN APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND.**