

September 2023

Important changes to the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Programme and details on how to arrange missing school-aged vaccinations – Information for parents of children in Years 9 -11

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has announced that from 1 September 2023 the HPV vaccine programme will change from a two dose to a one dose vaccine schedule for eligible adolescents.

This change follows advice from the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that one dose of HPV vaccine is just as effective as two doses at providing protection from HPV infection.

Over 280 million people worldwide have received the HPV vaccine, including over 10 million in the UK. Studies have shown the HPV vaccine to be very effective at preventing HPV infections and it is expected that the vaccine will save hundreds of lives every year in the UK. Since the HPV programme was introduced 10 years ago, a recent Scottish study found an 89% reduction in pre-cancerous cervical disease in young women.

Routine HPV Programme from September 2023

- Children in Year 8 will receive one dose only.
- Children in Year 9 and above who have already received one HPV vaccination will be considered fully vaccinated. **They will not require a second dose.**

Children in Year 9 and above who have not yet received any HPV vaccinations

Children in Year 9 and above were offered HPV vaccination in Year 8. Children in Year 9 and above who have not yet received any HPV vaccinations will be eligible to receive one

dose of the HPV vaccine. It is important that your child is vaccinated with this vaccine to protect them against HPV infection.

For more information regarding the HPV vaccination programme and benefits of vaccination please read the following:

[The universal HPV immunisation programme \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Why vaccination is safe and important - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

If your child is in year 9, year 10 or year 11 and has not had a dose of HPV vaccine, please contact the school-aged immunisation team on the contact details below, to arrange vaccination.

If your child is in year 10 or year 11 and has not had their final (5th dose) of dose Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio vaccine or a Meningitis ACWY vaccine (both offered in school year 9) please contact the school-aged immunisation team on the contact details below, to arrange vaccination.

If your child is in year 9, year 10 or year 11 and has not had 2 x MMR vaccinations (usually given before a child starts school), please contact the school-aged immunisation team on the contact details below, to arrange vaccination.

Yours sincerely

School-aged Immunisation team

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