

## Immunisations in Secondary Schools



This guide is for young people and their parents or guardians. It explains each of the immunisations that are given in school, why they are needed and answers some common questions.

Immunisation is the most important way of protecting individuals and the community from vaccine-preventable, infectious diseases.

Further information and consent forms will be sent home from school, either with the students or through the post. Please make sure that the consent form is returned to the school as soon as possible, even if consent is not given.

### **Year 8 and 9: HPV Cervical Cancer Vaccine (girls only)**

According to Cancer Research UK, cervical cancer is the most common cancer in women under the age of 35.

In the UK, 3000 women a year are diagnosed with cervical cancer - that's about eight women every day.

Around 919 women died from cervical cancer in 2012 in the UK.

It's estimated that about 400 lives could be saved every year in the UK as a result of vaccinating girls before they are infected with HPV. Research has indicated that the HPV vaccine provides effective protection for at least 20 years.

This is a course of two injections – the first in year 8, the second in year 9.



## Year 10: Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio (Teenage Booster)

The teenage booster, also known as the 3-in-1, protects against three serious diseases:

*Tetanus* affects the nervous system which can lead to muscle spasms and breathing problems. It is caused when germs found in the soil and manure get into the body through open cuts or burns.

*Diphtheria* usually begins with a sore throat and can quickly cause breathing problems. It can damage the heart and nervous system, and in severe cases, it can kill.

*Polio* attacks the nervous system which can cause permanent paralysis of muscles. If it affects the chest muscles or the brain, polio can be fatal.

Your child will have been offered three doses as a baby and one pre-school booster. This fifth dose will be given by the School Immunisation Team.

## Years 10 &11: Meningitis ACWY vaccine

Meningitis is inflammation of the lining of the brain, most commonly caused by meningococcal bacteria. As well as meningitis, meningococcal infection can lead to septicaemia (blood poisoning), both of which can be very serious or fatal. Meningitis W infection is increasing rapidly in England, and accounts for almost one quarter of all meningococcal infections.

Teenagers are at higher risk of carrying the bacteria and developing meningococcal disease and will be offered the vaccine that protects against four different types of Meningitis: A, C, W and Y. Year 10 students will receive this at the same time as the Teenage Booster. For year 11 students, this is an additional protective vaccination, in addition to the Meningitis C vaccination that they received in year 10.

More information about  
routine vaccinations can  
be found at:  
[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)



## For further information about this service contact:

Cambridgeshire School Immunisation Team  
Soham Health Centre, Pratt Street, Soham, CB7 5BH  
Tel: 01353 725575 or 01480 418692  
Email: [ccs-tr.cambsimmsteam@nhs.net](mailto:ccs-tr.cambsimmsteam@nhs.net)

Peterborough School Immunisation Team  
Paston Health Centre, Chadburn, Peterborough PE4 7DG  
Tel: 01733 758236  
Email: [ccs-tr.peterboroughimmsteam@nhs.net](mailto:ccs-tr.peterboroughimmsteam@nhs.net)

If you require this information in a different format such as in large print or on audio tape, or in a different language please contact the service on the details above.

If you have any concerns about this service or suggestions for improvements, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on Freephone 0800 013 2511 or email: [ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net).

For free, confidential health advice and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year please contact NHS 111.