A guide to Bristol’s School Vaccination Programmes

Supporting the delivery of school based immunisation programmes

Each year the School Nursing Service in Bristol and South Gloucestershire offers immunisations to students in secondary schools. The school nurses in Bristol have three main vaccination programmes:

Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY), and the Teenage Booster (Td/IPV)

HPV

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is given to Year 8 and 9 (aged 12-14) girls to protect them against cervical cancer. It is estimated that this will save 400 women each year from developing cervical cancer. Girls will need two doses which are ideally given 12 months apart but can be given up to 24 months apart: the first dose is given in year 8, the second in year 9.


Meningococcal ACWY

Meningococcal disease is caused by invasive bacterial infection. There are 12 identified serogroups of which groups B, C, W and Y were historically the most common in the UK. On 22 June 2015, Public Health England announced that the MenACWY vaccine would be introduced to respond to the national incident of increasing cases of MenW disease. This is now part of the routine schedule and is routinely offered to all year 9 students alongside the teenage booster vaccine.

For further information please visit: http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx

The Teenage Booster (Td/IPV)

The teenage booster vaccine is a single injection which boosts protection against tetanus, diphtheria and polio. Most people have three doses as a baby, a pre-school
booster, and a final teenage booster. It is routinely offered to all year 9 students alongside the MenACWY vaccine.

Diphtheria is a serious bacterial disease which usually begins with a sore throat and can cause severe breathing problems. Tetanus is a painful disease that affects the muscles and can kill: it is caused by tetanus toxins released by bacteria in soil and manure and can get into the body through cuts or burns. Polio is a virus that attacks the nervous system and can permanently paralyse muscles in the arms legs, and if it affects the chest muscles can be fatal. For further information please visit: http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/3-in-1-teenage-booster.aspx

Schedule

For 2017/18 the school schedule in Bristol is:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPV dose 1</td>
<td>All girls</td>
<td>Any girls who missed their first dose in Year 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV dose 2</td>
<td>All girls</td>
<td>All children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MenACWY</td>
<td>All children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Td/IPV</td>
<td>All children</td>
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The national immunisation schedule can vary year to year and your school nursing team will keep you updated on any changes.

Checklist

Experience has shown that the immunisation programmes in school are most successful where schools have embraced the work and provided support. The checklist below is designed to help you support the vaccination teams who will be working at your school. Please ensure you:

* **Identify a named contact within the school to liaise with the School Nurse Team.** This will help with communication and organisation of the immunisation programme within the school.

* **Provide the School Nurse Team with year lists, for all appropriate students,** containing the school name, unique reference number and the name, sex, date of birth, ethnicity code, home postcode, home address and home telephone number of each pupil.

* **Send out the immunisation consent forms, accompanying letter and leaflets.** It is important to ensure that parents are given a reasonable opportunity to sign and return the consent forms. If any parents have questions about the vaccinations put them in touch with your named school nurse.
* **Track the return of immunisation consent forms and chase any outstanding forms.** We appreciate that sometimes forms go astray, please ensure consent forms are returned to help increase the uptake of vaccinations at your school.

* **Confirm a convenient day and time for the School Nurse Team to come into the school** to undertake the immunisation sessions. Remember to check exam timetabling to minimise rearranging these sessions.

* **Provide a suitable room for the immunisation sessions** and supervise student’s movement to and from the room. The school will need to identify a private and quiet area for the immunisation session. The room will need to be large enough to accommodate space for students to wait prior to the immunisation, an area with tables for immunisation preferably with screens and an area with chairs for the students to wait for 15mins after the immunisation which will include a mat for students who may need to lay down. This ideally would be a large hall.

* **Support students who have missed vaccinations:** if you know of any reasons students may not have been vaccinated (e.g. possible language barriers) please pass this information to the school nurses and support them where possible (e.g. interpreter support). If a student misses a vaccination they will be able to either receive it at a different session with the school nurses, or with their GP practice. Contact your named school nurse for support on this.

* **Actively promote and raise awareness of the programmes.** Success is seen in schools where governors, teachers, parents and children have a good understanding and awareness of the programmes and their importance. Discuss with your named school nurse ways to promote the programme, such as asking them to attend an assembly where they can talk to students about the programme, including an article in the school newsletter/ website and sharing information on the programme with governors.

**Flu Vaccinations**

**Primary Headteacher information: Immunising children against flu**

This information is for headteachers and school staff. It gives details about the nasal flu vaccine being offered to children in the autumn term of 2016. Parents/guardians will receive their own dedicated information at the appropriate time. To read a PDF of the leaflet click [here](#).