

Dorset School Age Immunisation Service

Acorn Building
St Leonards Hospital
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Service Hours: Mon – Fri 09:00 – 17:00

Date 22.02.2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine: to all students in Year 8

HPV vaccination will be provided in schools to help protect your child against cancers caused by HPV. From September 2023 routine adolescent HPV immunisation programme for all children in school year 8 (aged 12 to 13 years) will move from two doses to one dose.

Further information from the NHS about these diseases, the vaccine given to protect your child against them, and any side effects is available here:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine

We are due to visit your child's school to vaccinate on:

School	Highcliffe School
Date of session	Monday 25th March 2024 – Tuesday 26th March 2024
School / LEA Code	4kzwzt
Complete online consent form no later than	Wednesday 20th March 2024

Please complete the online form by the above date (in red) to ensure that we have time to check the form and contact you if there are any queries. If you complete the form after this date, we will not be able to immunise your child at the planned school session, and you will need to attend a catch-up clinic at a community venue, which may not be local to your child's school.

If you have a child at another school you will receive a separate letter with a different code for that school.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING ONLINE CONSENT

- Please complete the online consent form using the following link:
- links.inhealthcare.co.uk/dorset-hpv
- InHealthCare will send a verification code to your email address, to ensure we have your correct

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details.

- You will be asked a series of health questions for your child. There is space to add further information if your child has a health condition or additional needs.
- We will contact you if we require any further information. Please provide a daytime telephone number if possible.
- If you miss the deadline you can still complete a form but will be offered an appointment for a catch-up clinic at a community venue.
- If you decide you do not want your child to be vaccinated, there is a box on the consent form for you to complete and please do tell us why.

If your child has already received an HPV vaccine elsewhere, when you complete the online form please let us know when and where this was given.

For children in care you are most likely to have delegated authority to sign consent for the immunisation. If you are uncertain or you do not have delegated authority please speak to the child's social worker as soon as possible.

If you have any problems registering your child online please check our website:

www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/schoolageimms including the Frequently Asked Questions section or complete the Contact Us form.

A leaflet about vaccines for young people published by Public Health England can be downloaded here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/849579/PHE_11490_IMM_young_people_A5_booklet_Dec2019.pdf

Information about vaccinations that young people are eligible for can be found here:

[NHS vaccinations and when to have them - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Important information: If your child has any serious illness after you complete the online consent form or for any other queries e-mail us at dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net . Please note that our operating hours are Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:00, and we are unable to respond to enquiries outside these hours.

Yours faithfully

Dorset School Age Immunisation Service

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HPV

vaccination

Protecting against HPV infection to help reduce your risk of cancer



The universal HPV immunisation programme

The HPV vaccine has been offered to all girls in school year 8 since September 2008. From September 2019 the vaccine has also been offered to year 8 boys.

This is because the evidence is clear that the HPV vaccine helps protect both boys and girls from HPV-related cancers.

More than 280 million doses of the HPV vaccine have been given worldwide, including 120 million doses in the US and over 10 million in the UK.

The HPV vaccine helps protect you from being infected by the human papillomavirus (HPV).

This virus increases the risk of developing some cancers later in life, such as:

- cervical cancer
- some mouth and throat cancers
- some cancers of the anus and genital areas

The HPV vaccine does not protect against other sexually transmitted infections.

HPV and how it spreads

HPV infection is very common. More than 70% of unvaccinated people will get it

70%

HPV lives on the skin in and around the whole genital area, so using condoms does not provide complete protection from HPV



There are **many different types** of HPV



Most HPV infections do not cause any symptoms and **get better on their own**



Some do not clear up and can lead to cancer whilst others cause genital warts



What difference has the HPV vaccine made so far?

Fifteen years since the start of the vaccination programme in the UK there has been a big decline in HPV infections and in the number of young people with genital warts.

In time it is expected that the vaccine will save hundreds of lives every year in the UK.

Having the HPV vaccine

The vaccine is given as an injection in your upper arm.

Most people will need only one dose to be protected. This is usually given around the time you are in school year 8.



To give you the best protection, the vaccine should be given before you become sexually active.

If you are sexually active you should still have the vaccine.



The HPV vaccine

The HPV vaccine used in the **NHS vaccination schedule** is Gardasil 9 and protects against 9 of the types of HPV which can cause cancer and genital warts for most people with just one dose.

I missed my vaccination, can I still have it?

Yes. If you missed your vaccination at school, you should try and have it as soon as possible.

Contact your school nurse, school immunisation team or GP practice to arrange an appointment.

You remain eligible to receive the vaccine up until your 25th birthday.

Women who have had the vaccine will still need to go for cervical screening

All women aged 25 and over in England are offered cervical screening tests. The HPV vaccine will prevent up to 90% of cervical cancer cases, but women should still attend for cervical screening when invited to do so.




What about the other cancers?

There are currently no screening programmes for other HPV-related cancers. If you are worried about any symptoms speak to your GP practice.

Side effects

As with most other vaccinations, the side effects of the HPV vaccination are quite mild. Soreness, swelling and redness in the arm are common but wear off in a couple of days. More serious side effects are extremely rare.




The vaccine has passed the strict safety standards for use in the UK and has been shown to be a very safe vaccine. Millions of doses of vaccine have already been given to boys and girls in the UK and around the world. As with all vaccines, any reports of side effects are closely monitored and reviewed.



If you experience any suspected side effects to the vaccine, you can report these on the Yellow Card website or by calling **0800 731 6789** (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday) or by downloading the Yellow Card app.

www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard

Remember

-  to get your HPV vaccine now, to protect yourself against a number of cancers in the future
-  the vaccine is saving hundreds of lives every year in the UK
-  even with protection from the HPV vaccine you will still need health checks, such as your cervical smear from age 25

For more information, visit www.nhs.uk/hpv

A complete list of ingredients for the Gardasil 9 vaccine is given in the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL): www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7330/pil

The Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC): www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7330/smcp/print



This leaflet has been produced by the UK Health Security Agency. **Immunisation, helping to protect everyone at every age.**

The leaflet can be ordered or downloaded from: www.healthpublications.gov.uk, by calling: 0300 123 1002 (lines are open 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday). This leaflet is also available translated into the following languages: Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Brazilian Pt., Bulgarian, Chinese, Spanish, Estonian, Farsi, Fijian, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Kurdish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Nepali, Panjabi, Pashto, Polish, Romany, Romanian, Russian, Somali, Tagalog, Turkish, Twi, Tigrinya, Ukrainian, Urdu, Yiddish and Yoruba