

## Meningitis ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccination

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Meningitis ACWY vaccination helps to protect your child against four types of meningococcal bacteria (groups A, C, W and Y) that can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). These diseases are very serious and can be fatal in some cases, especially if not diagnosed early. During this school year, children in year 9 will get the vaccine routinely along with the DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Polio).

If you would like more information, please visit

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx> where you can find information about the disease and the vaccine. If you would like to discuss the vaccines with a nurse, or if you require help to complete the form, please contact your immunisation team in your child's school area below.

We hope that this information addresses any concerns you or your child might have about the vaccination and you will feel confident that having the Meningitis ACWY vaccine will help to protect your child against a very serious illness.

If this is NOT your child's 5th dose of diphtheria, tetanus and polio vaccine, they will need to have one or more follow up doses to complete the course to ensure that they have full immunity. Please arrange to have this with your child's GP **4 weeks after** the dose they receive in school.

**Please complete the consent form\*** (one for each child) **within 1 week** so your child can be given the vaccine in a timely way to protect them.

*\*The person who has parental responsibility must sign the consent form.*

**It is important to complete the form even if the recommended vaccination is refused.**

To improve our service, we would be grateful if you would tell us your reason for refusal. Should you change your mind later, please feel free to contact us. The person who has parental responsibility must sign the consent form\*

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.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AS' followed by a flourish.

**Amanda Schiller**  
Clinical Director  
Vaccination UK

## Immunisation Team Contact Details

### **Hertfordshire & East Anglia:**

Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire@v-uk.co.uk	01462 427 008
East Anglia	EastAnglia@v-uk.co.uk	01462 427 008

### **Bedfordshire & Luton:**

Bedfordshire	Bedford@v-uk.co.uk	01462 427 008
Luton	Luton@v-uk.co.uk	01462 427 008

## Additional information about DTP & Men ACWY Immunisation:

### ***About the Meningitis ACWY vaccine***

The Meningitis ACWY vaccine protects against four types of meningococcal bacteria (groups A, C, W and Y) that can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). It is routinely offered to teenagers in school Years 9 or 10 at the same time as the DTP vaccine.

Meningococcal disease (meningitis and septicaemia) is a rare but life-threatening disease caused by meningococcal bacteria. It can lead to life-changing disabilities, such as amputations, hearing loss and brain damage.

Older teenagers and new university students are at higher risk of infection because many of them mix closely with lots of new people, some of whom may unknowingly carry the meningococcal bacteria at the back of their nose and throat.

### ***About the DTP vaccine***

The 3-in-1 teenage booster vaccine (DTP) is routinely offered on the NHS to all young people aged 14 (school year 9). The vaccine is given to boost protection against 3 separate diseases: diphtheria, tetanus and polio.

### ***If my child was vaccinated against DTP as a young child, are they still protected?***

Your child will have some protection, but the booster vaccination will strengthen their immunity and help keep them protected for many more years.

### ***How many boosters does my child need?***

In total, your child needs 5 doses of the tetanus, diphtheria and polio vaccines throughout their childhood. This will build up and maintain their body's own immunity against these infections and protect them against the diseases.

Your child will receive the first 3 doses as a baby at 8, 12 and 16 weeks. The 4th dose is given around the age of 3 as a pre-school booster in the 4-in-1 vaccine, and the 5th and final dose is the teenage 3-in-1 booster given at age 14 (school year 9).

### ***Are there any side effects?***

It is common to get some swelling, redness or tenderness at the injection site. Sometimes a small painless lump develops, but this usually disappears in a few weeks. More serious effects are rare but include fever, headache, dizziness, feeling slightly sick. If your child feels unwell after the immunisation, give paracetamol or ibuprofen. If their temperature persists, speak to your GP or call the free NHS helpline: 111

## Additional information:

***\*The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:***

- Mother: automatic
  - Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
  - Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
  - Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
  - Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
  - Residence Order: granted by the Court
- *Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent for themselves if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.*

### **Vaccination UK Privacy Notice 2022/2023:**

#### **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:

[action@vaccinationuk.co.uk](mailto:action@vaccinationuk.co.uk)