

22 January 2024

Dear Headteacher/PSHE Coordinator,

Adolescent Vaccination Programme

I am writing to share some important information about this year's adolescent vaccination programme and to introduce a range of resources that the Wolverhampton Public Health Team and Vaccination UK have put together to assist you in maximising uptake of vaccination in your school, as well in educating young people about how vaccinations will provide them with long-lasting protection into adulthood. Please take the time to read this, in conjunction with the [UK Health Security Agency's adolescent vaccination programme briefing for secondary schools](#).

Once again pupils will be offered their adolescent vaccinations by the school age immunisation service; Vaccination UK. It is extremely important that all schools engage with Vaccination UK and enable them to run clinics on site during the Winter and Spring terms. The three vaccines which are being offered to young people as part of a long-standing programme to protect them from serious preventable diseases are:

- the 3 in 1 teenage booster, given in school year 9 which protects against tetanus, diphtheria and polio
- the Men ACWY vaccine, given in school year 9 which helps protect against meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y, which can cause meningitis and septicaemia
- the HPV vaccine, given in school year 8 which helps protect against cancers caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV)

Important information about this year's adolescent vaccination programme:

- The 3 in 1 teenage booster and the Men ACWY vaccine will commence in schools from February 2024. Parents / carers will be issued with a link to an electronic consent form, which must be completed no later than 5 days before the clinic. The consent form is available via this link: [Vaccination UK Immunisation \(schoolvaccination.uk\)](#)
- The HPV vaccinations will commence from March 2024 and the consent form will be shared with schools once it becomes available.
- Paper consent forms and information in alternative formats are available by request. You can contact Vaccination UK to request this by telephone: 01902 200077 or email: wolverhampton@v-uk.co.uk
- The local NHS, Local Authority Public Health and Education Teams encourage all schools to enable Vaccination UK nurses to speak to children whose parent's / guardians have not consented for the purpose of attempting to gain verbal consent via a telephone call. This contact will be made either by the pupils own mobile telephone if appropriate or facilitated by Vaccination UK who will have telephones available during sessions. Please be assured, vaccinations will only ever be given with parental consent or in the case of secondary age pupils, where a pupil is deemed to be Gillick-competent as per NHS guidelines: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/consent-to-treatment/children/>

Adolescent Vaccination Resources

The engagement in NHS vaccination programmes, is recognised by OFSTED as being important and provides an opportunity to discuss vaccinations as part of health education, which has been compulsory in primary and secondary schools since September 2020.

The Wolverhampton Public Health Team in conjunction with Vaccination UK have developed a set of resources to support schools in promoting the uptake of vaccinations. We have launched a new "[Bug](#)

 wolverhampton.gov.uk

 [@WolvesCouncil](https://twitter.com/WolvesCouncil)

 [WolverhamptonToday](#)

[Busters](#)” website which provides a wide range of resources including a school age immunisation best practice guide, teaching resources, template promotional materials for school websites and text messages for parents /carers.

The School Age Immunisation Best Practice Guide

- Provides all the information schools need to ensure clinics run smoothly and achieve maximum uptake with minimal disruption.
- Contains important information on timeframes leading up to onsite vaccination and on the consent process.

Linking School Age Vaccinations with RSHE Health Education Delivery

- A guide to age appropriate teaching resources available from e-Bug which is a curriculum supplement series (Key Stage 1, 2, 3 and 4) that complies with the new statutory guidance for RSE (Relationships Education, RSE & Health Education, September 2020) which is available from www.e-bug.eu

Template Promotional Materials

- A template adolescent vaccination **article** to be included on your school website.
- Template **text message** and **social media communications** for your office staff / vaccination coordinator to use with parents to promote vaccination and to support the return of consent forms.

Contacts and further information

If you have any questions about the adolescent vaccination programme you can contact Vaccination UK via telephone: 01902 200077 or email: wolverhampton@v-uk.co.uk

If you have any questions about the resources or website you can email flufighters@wolverhampton.gov.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in making this years adolescent vaccination programme a success.

Yours sincerely,

N.Davies

Natalie Davies
Senior Public Health Specialist
City of Wolverhampton Council