

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Your daughter is eligible for HPV vaccination which is due shortly.**

The HPV vaccine is being offered to your daughter in school Year 8. A consent form and information leaflet is provided with this letter. We ask you to discuss the vaccination with your daughter and to complete and **return the consent form to school before the end of this summer term.**

The vaccine to protect against cervical cancer is being offered to your daughter in school when she starts Year 8. By having this vaccination, your daughter will be protected against the commonest cause of cervical cancer and many other cancers related to the HPV virus. To get the best protection, she will need two injections to be given 6 months apart.

The first will be given in the autumn term 2018 and the second in summer 2019. For specific dates please refer to your school communications (e.g. website, noticeboards, and newsletters)

**What if my daughter doesn't want to have the vaccination?**

She doesn't have to have it, if she doesn't want to, but it is recommended that she does have it for the reasons given above. Having the vaccination now will protect her for many years. Suggest she speaks to the school nurse if she wants more information, on her own, or with you, if she'd prefer.

**What if she wants the vaccination but, as her parents, we'd rather she didn't have it?**

You should discuss this with school nurse to get more advice. The decision is legally hers as long as she understands the issues in giving consent however the nurse would like your permission to offer the vaccination to your daughter. It is important for your daughter's future to appreciate that having the vaccination now will protect her from the most common cause of cervical cancer for many years to come.

**If you decide you do not want your daughter to have the vaccine it is important you complete the refusal of consent on the consent form and return to the school nurse as soon as possible. Please be assured that if we receive a written refusal of consent we will not vaccinate your daughter.**

**What if my daughter is absent from school on vaccination day?**

Don't worry, you will be offered the opportunity to bring your daughter to one of our community immunisation clinics.

**What if I don't return the consent form?**

All consent forms should be returned to school by the end of this term, a further reminder will be sent out in September for any missing consent forms to be returned. We would like parents to complete the consent form, however if we do not receive a completed consent form before the vaccination session we will look to offer your daughter the opportunity to self-consent on the day. This is in line with the Gillick Competency Framework, see NHS Choices website; consent to treatment children and young people at the following web address:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Consent-to-treatment/Pages/Children-under-16.aspx>

If you would like more details you can visit the NHS Choices vaccination page on the HPV vaccine at the following web address:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine.aspx>

Or visit the Vaccine Knowledge Project at the following web address:

<http://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/hpv-vaccine>

If you have any queries and would like to speak with a School Nurse please contact the 0-19 Universal Children's Services Team on 0300 111 1022 (Option 4 for the 0-19 team, followed by option 1 for immunisation queries).