



February 2024

Community Children's Health Partnership
Immunisation Team
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Dear Year 9 student

Meningococcal ACWY vaccination and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccination

The Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations are being offered to you at school.

Meningococcal ACWY vaccination helps to protect you 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 kill, especially if not diagnosed early. Cases of meningococcal W disease ('MenW') in England have increased significantly in recent years, particularly in teenagers and young adults, and it is in response to this rise in cases that this vaccine is being given to your age group.

The diphtheria/tetanus/polio vaccination (Td/IPV) is given at the same time as the Men ACWY. The National Childhood Immunisation Programme has meant that dangerous diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus and polio have practically disappeared in this country. It is important that everyone keeps up their vaccinations so that these diseases do not return. Everyone needs 5 doses of the tetanus, diphtheria and polio vaccination to build up and maintain immunity. The first three doses should have been given as a baby and the fourth at around four years old. **The fifth dose is due now.**

For further information please see www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations or [Immunisations for young people - your questions answered \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://immunisationsforyoungpeople-yourquestionsanswered.publishing.service.gov.uk). You can also talk to the school nurse, your GP or practice nurse.

It is important for you to discuss the vaccinations with your parent/ carer. They have been sent a consent form for you to receive the vaccine. Please encourage your parent/ carer to complete the online consent form whether they do or don't want you to receive the vaccination. If your parent/ carer does not complete the consent form ahead of the session, we may not be able to vaccinate you at the school session.

Please note the consent link will close two working days before the school session.

If you have any questions, please contact the Immunisation Team at sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net or 0300 1245515

Yours Sincerely

Karen Evans
Head of Specialist Services for Children and Sirona Integrated Immunisation
Services