

Dear Parent/Guardian,

National Routine Teenage Booster Vaccination Programme 2021/2022

Tetanus / Diphtheria / Polio and Meningitis ACWY (Teenage Booster)

Vaccination is one of the most successful Public Health interventions giving protection against potentially fatal diseases for the whole of our population.

The Td/IPV vaccine protects against **Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio**, and the MenACWY vaccine protects against **Meningitis strains A C W and Y**. Public Health England have seen a rise in the number of cases of Meningitis W in teenagers and young adults. They are important for ensuring long-term protection against all of the above serious, disabling and potentially fatal diseases. Protection will then continue into adulthood.

These vaccines are routinely offered in school at the same time, for boys and girls from year 9, as part of the national programme for vaccination of children and young people.

Catch up is also available for students in years 10 to 13, who are outstanding these vaccinations.

On the back of this letter, there is some useful information about the vaccines and the diseases they protect against. Further information is available on the NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk.

Please take this opportunity to check that your child's routine vaccinations are up to date. You can check this with your GP Practice. If you have any questions, you can also contact the Immunisation Service or your School Nurse.

How do I give consent for the Teenage Booster Vaccinations?

Complete the steps below, before the closing date and time, to consent for your child to have their Teenage Booster vaccinations. **The consent form will close 3 working days before the vaccination session date.**

Your online consent form closes at 11am, 3 working days before your session date, which can be found in the accompanying email from your child's school.

1. **Click on the following the link:** www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/DTP
2. **Enter and confirm your preferred email address** – you will receive a confirmation email following submission of the consent form.
3. **Enter your school code and click 'Find School'** – The school codes are unique to each school and site. Please use the correct code for your child's school, found on this letter, to avoid delays with vaccination: **SX139668**
4. **Check the school name matches: (Chichester Free School)**
5. **Complete and submit the consent form**, indicating your choice of consent - Please ensure you provide the child's registered address and GP.

If you are unable to complete the online form, do not want your child to have these vaccinations, or wish to change your consent, please read the frequently asked questions for how to proceed.

We hope that the information provided helps you to make a positive decision about protecting your child against these diseases, for which vaccinations are readily available.

Yours sincerely

Immunisation Clinical Service Manager



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Speak to a member of the Immunisation Service by calling your local team on 01273 696011

Brighton
Ext. 3789

Chichester
Ext. 8100

Crawley
Ext. 2043

East Sussex
Ext. 2080

Worthing
Ext. 8533

What do I do if I cannot complete the online consent form? Contact your local team in the Immunisation Service on the number provided, and complete a verbal consent with them **before the closing date and time.**

What do I do if I missed the cut off date to complete an online consent form and the form is now? The online form will re-open, 1 working day after the school session date. You will then be able to complete a consent form and book into a catch up clinic online, by following the instructions in the automated email you will receive upon submission of a positive consent form. If you are unable to use the online booking system, please contact your local team on the number provided.

Can I use the same school code for both my children? The Cinnamon school codes are unique to each individual school and site. i.e. lower and upper schools or Independent schools with more than one location e.g. Brighton College Prep and Brighton College will both have different Cinnamon school codes. Therefore, if you have more than one child, but they do not attend the same school site please do not submit the consent for using the same code. You will receive a separate letter from your school in order to consent for both children. Please note these letter may not be sent to you at the same time, this is dependent on the vaccination session date.

What do I do if I do not want my child to have this vaccination course? Please complete the online consent form following the steps in the parent letter, and indicating that you do not give consent for the Teenage Booster vaccinations. In the absence of a form, we may offer your child the opportunity to consent to the vaccination course themselves, following an assessment of their competence and understanding of what is involved with this vaccination.

What do I do if I have changed my mind after completing an online consent form? You must contact the Immunisation Service to change your consent and inform your child's school, by putting this in writing; prior to the vaccination session date.

How will I know when my child has been vaccinated? You will receive an email, sent to the email address provided when completing the online form, advising you of the vaccination outcome. If your child was not vaccinated, following submission of a positive consent form, your email will advise of the reason for this and contain details of how to book into a catch up clinic.

What vaccines are being offered and why? **Revaxis** is a combined vaccine that protects against **tetanus**, **diphtheria**, and **polio**. Provided that your child has had all the previous scheduled doses against these three illnesses, this booster will give long term protection against these serious infections.

Polio is a virus that attacks the nervous system which can cause permanent paralysis of muscles and can be fatal. **Diphtheria** is a serious disease that can cause breathing problems, damage the heart and nervous system and, in severe cases, be fatal. Thanks to vaccination, polio and diphtheria are now much rarer than they used to be, but have still not been eradicated on a global scale. **Tetanus** is a painful disease affecting the nervous system which leads to muscle spasms, causes breathing problems and can kill. It is caused when germs found in the soil and manure get into the body through open cuts or burns. Because tetanus spores are everywhere, it can never be eradicated.

Bacterial **Meningitis** causes inflammation of the brain and blood poisoning, with complications such as epilepsy, hearing loss, gangrene and amputation. A dose of **Nimenrix** or **Menveo** protects against four strains of meningitis and is advised for all teenagers, as they are at higher risk of contracting Meningitis C and W.

Who should not have these vaccines? Very few people cannot have these vaccines. Only those with a severe allergic (anaphylactic) reaction to a previous dose or to any of the ingredients of the vaccines - please see the links below. If your child has a bleeding disorder, a history of convulsions (fits) or has a weakened immune system, we may need to ask for more details before vaccination. Vaccination is postponed if someone is unwell on the day with a feverish illness. Minor illnesses such as colds without fever do not prevent vaccination.

Nimenrix: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/4118> Menveo:

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/2939>

Revaxis: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5581>

What if they want the vaccination but, as a parent / guardian, we would rather they didn't have it? If you do not want your child to have these vaccinations, please complete the online consent form indicating this. However, if your child approaches us requesting these vaccinations where you have indicated you do not consent, we would endeavour to have a conversation with you to discuss their options. Legally children under the age of 16 can consent to their own treatment if they demonstrate the competence and understanding to fully appreciate what's involved in their treatment.

What does consenting to SCFT staff to be able to view my child's Digital Health Record mean? It enables any SCFT Children's Services staff, who provide care for your child, to see information which has been shared out from the GP and other health organisations records if they use compatible systems. We cannot view other organisations records without consent, except in exceptional circumstances. Access to your child's health record helps our services to make safe clinical decisions on the most appropriate treatment and care.

For further information see: <https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/contact-us/patient-records.htm>

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

On the day of vaccination - Wear clothes that would allow the nurses to access the top of the arm, such as a short sleeved shirt/T shirt. They should have breakfast as usual and ensure that they have plenty to drink throughout the day.

What to expect afterwards - Following vaccination the young person may experience fever, aches, headache, nausea or tiredness. This is an expected immune response which can be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen (never aspirin for under-16s); always follow the directions on the packet. It's 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. Any other side effects are unusual. If you're worried about any reaction you can call the NHS 111 service. Please inform us or your GP if your child has any side effects other than those listed above following vaccination.

Vaccine Safety - The vaccine has undergone rigorous safety testing before being licensed for use in the UK. It is a well-established vaccine with a known safety profile, and like all other vaccines, unwanted reactions are constantly monitored.

