

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **National Routine HPV Vaccination Programme 2021/2022**

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

The HPV programme in the UK consists of two doses of the vaccine for students who start the course before their 15th birthday. The vaccine is routinely offered in schools, to boys and girls from year 8 as part of the national programme for vaccination of children and young people. A second dose is offered a minimum of 26 weeks later; which may not be in the same academic year.

Catch up is available for students who have not started or completed the course of vaccinations, by prior arrangement, with the Immunisation Service. However, it is not available on the NHS for boys in years 11 to 13.

By having this vaccination, students are protected against the Human Papilloma Virus that causes some types of cancer and genital warts. For information on some of the positive benefits of having the HPV vaccination visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-47803975>

Contained within this letter are some frequently asked questions and useful information about the virus and the vaccination. Further information is also available on the NHS Choices website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) (search for HPV), as well as links to other useful websites.

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 HPV Vaccination Course?**

Complete the steps below, before the closing date and time, to consent for your child to have the HPV Vaccination Course. **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/HPV](http://www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/HPV)
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: **SX139109**
4. **Check the school name matches: (Worthing High 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 this vaccination course, 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 this cancer causing virus, for which a vaccination is readily available.

Yours sincerely

**Immunisation Clinical Service Manager**



*Excellent care at the heart of the community*

## 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 full HPV vaccination course. In the absence of a form, we may offer your child the opportunity to consent to the HPV vaccination course themselves, following an assessment of their competence and understanding of what's 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? There are currently two vaccines available,** Gardasil and Gardasil 9, as part of the routine vaccination programme. Your child could be offered either of these vaccines for their first and / or second dose. The vaccines protect against HPV which can cause most cervical cancers (more than 70% in the UK), some anal and genital cancers, and some cancers of the head and neck. The vaccines also protect against genital warts. They do not protect against all of the other cancer-causing types of HPV, so it's vital that women still go for routine cervical screening tests when they are older. For the Patient Information Leaflets and further information, please visit:

**Gardasil:** <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/261/pil>

**Gardasil 9:** [Gardasil 9 suspension for injection - Patient Information Leaflet \(PIL\) - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)

**Why is the vaccine given at 12 or 13 years of age?** HPV is spread by someone having sex or being sexually intimate with another who has the virus. Whilst most young people don't start having sex until they are 16 or over, it has been shown the vaccine provides the best protection if given at 12 – 13 years of age as the immune response is better. It is still important to have the vaccine even if a young person is sexually active as it can provide protection against any of the HPV types in the vaccine they have not been exposed to.

**Can older girls be vaccinated too?** Yes. They can contact the Immunisation Service, contact details for each area are overleaf, if they wish to start or complete the course. If they are 15 years of age or over, they will need to have the three dose schedule.

**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.

