

School Health Nurses
Abingdon Hospital
Marcham Road
Abingdon, OX14 1AG
Telephone: 01865 904890
Fax: 01865 337428
Email: Claire.james@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

Immunisations at Secondary School

The national childhood immunisation programme has meant that many dangerous diseases such as tetanus, diphtheria and polio (Td/IPV) have practically disappeared in the UK. Unfortunately this is not the same for all countries and cases of these diseases continue to be seen worldwide, including Europe. Similarly immunisations for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and Meningitis (Men) have drastically reduced the number of people contracting these serious infections. Therefore it is important that we continue to immunise our children and teenagers in order to maintain the high level of protection found in the UK.

Men ACWY

From September 2015, the Meningitis ACWY vaccination is required for teenagers. This has been added to the Teenage Immunisation schedule, to give protection against four strains of meningitis. This can be given at the same time as the Td/IPV. This replaces the single Men C previously given in year 9.

Td/IPV

Young people need a total of five doses of Td/IPV vaccine to build up and keep their immunity. These are given as follows:

- The first three doses as a baby
- The fourth dose when they were between three and five years old, before they started school
- The fifth dose is due now

MMR

This is a good time to check that 2 doses of MMR have been received. If your child has only received one dose then the School Health Nurses can give the second dose now. If your child has never received the MMR vaccine and you would like them to, they will be given one dose by the School Health Nurses and should then have a second dose at their GP/Doctors' surgery.

Students in Year 3 will be offered their 5th dose of Tetanus, diphtheria and inactivated Polio (Td/IPV) and Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) on, Friday, 5th February 2016 at Abingdon School by a team of School Health Nurses.

Consent Form

Please discuss and complete the consent form with your child. Every student should return the consent form to school as soon as possible, whether or not they need the immunisations.

For further information please consult the enclosed information booklet '*Immunisations for young people*' which contains useful information about these vaccines or visit the website www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

If you have any concerns please contact the School Health Nurses on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Claire James
School Health Nurse

A record of immunisations given to your son/daughter will be held at the Child Health Department and at your GP/Doctors' surgery (it may also be stored for a short time with the School Health Nurses). This information will be used to compile figures on how many people are immunised.