

PLEASE DETACH AND KEEP THIS  
LETTER FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Parent or Guardian

### **Teenage Booster School Based Vaccination Programme**

**This year we are offering Tetanus / Diphtheria / Polio and Meningitis ACWY (Teenage Booster) to pupils in Year 9 in your child's school.**

These booster vaccinations are important for ensuring protection against all of the above serious, disabling and potentially fatal diseases. Protection continues into adult life. These vaccinations are now given in school to improve access for young people, as they have previously only been offered through GP Practices.

On the back of this letter, there is some useful information for you and your child about the vaccines and the diseases they protect against. More information is available on the NHS Choices website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). You can also contact the Immunisation Team (numbers below) or your School Nurse for more information.

**Please complete the attached form, detach from this letter and return to your child's school in the next seven days.**

Before signing the consent form, please can we ask that you advise us if your child has had any of the vaccinations listed; on the front of the consent form; in the **last 5 years**. This includes if the vaccinations were given for the purpose of travelling or following an accident, to enable us to assess whether these vaccinations are needed. They may be recorded in their Red Book (Personal Child Health Record). It is important that you share this information with us.

Please take this opportunity to check that your child is up-to-date with all their vaccinations. You can check with your GP Practice or on [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) for the vaccination schedule.

Dates of Immunisation sessions in schools will be listed on the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust website. If your child misses the immunisation session in school, these vaccinations will still be available through catch-up clinics that the Immunisation Team organises.

We hope that the information provided helps you and your child make a positive decision about the vaccinations and the protection they offer.

Yours sincerely



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**Immunisation Clinical Service Manager – Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust**

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# Information for parents and young people

## ***What vaccines are being offered and why?***

**Revaxis** is a combined vaccine which 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. For more information visit <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/17378>

**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, can damage the heart and nervous system, and in severe cases, it can kill. 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 can lead to muscle spasms, cause 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** is a very serious infection which can cause 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.

For more information visit <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/26513> Or <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/27358>

If your daughter is having the HPV vaccination in year 9 this will be given on a separate visit to the schools.

## ***Safety***

Both the Tetanus/Diphtheria/Polio and Meningitis vaccines contain no live organisms and they cannot cause any of the illnesses they protect against. They are well established vaccines with a known safety profile, and like all other vaccines unwanted reactions are constantly monitored.

## ***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 (such as neomycin, streptomycin or polymyxin B, which are antibiotics present in trace amounts in the vaccine) should not have the vaccines. If your child has a bleeding disorder, a history of convulsions (fits), or has a weakened immune system, we may need to ask more details before vaccination. However you might be directed to your GP for vaccination if necessary.

Vaccination is always postponed if someone is unwell on the day with a feverish illness. Minor illnesses such as colds without fever do not prevent vaccination.

## ***What to expect afterwards***

It's common to get some swelling, redness or tenderness where you have the injection. Sometimes a small painless lump develops, but this usually disappears in a few weeks. Less frequently you might experience fever, aches, headache, nausea, or tiredness. Any other side effects are unusual. A mild fever can be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen (never aspirin for under-16s). Always follow the directions on the packet. 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.