

**DETACH AND KEEP THIS  
LETTER FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION**

Dear Parent or Guardian

**Teenage Booster School Based Vaccination Programme 2018/2019**

**We are offering Tetanus / Diphtheria / Polio and Meningitis ACWY (Teenage Booster) to all students in Year 9.**

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

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

On the back of this letter, there is some useful information 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). If you have any questions you can also contact the Immunisation Service or your School Nurse.

**Please detach and fully complete the consent form and return to the school in the next 7 days.**

Should you change your mind after you have returned the consent form, please put this in writing stating student's name, date of birth, school name and the change you wish to make. Give this to the school reception marked 'Urgent for the attention of the Immunisation Service'.

Please read the consent form carefully and complete all the questions, including those about vaccination history, include vaccinations given for the purpose of travelling or following an accident. This is to enable us to assess if these vaccinations are needed at this time. They may be recorded in their Red Book (Personal Child Health Record). It is important that you share this information with us.

Dates of Immunisation sessions in schools will be available on the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust website. If the vaccinations are not given on the day, a letter detailing the catch up clinics the Immunisation Service run will be sent home via the school. Catch up dates can also be found on the trust website.

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

Yours sincerely

**Rosanna Raven**  
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 the young person is having the HPV vaccination in year 9 this will be given on a separate visit to the school.

### ***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.