

Childhood Immunisation Service  
Thirsk Health Centre  
Chapel Street  
Thirsk  
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Tel: 01845 521680

Dear Parent or Guardian,

During this academic year (2015/16), children in North Yorkshire schools years 9, 10 and 11 will be offered the vaccines below in school. If you live in North Yorkshire but your child attends School in the City of York the childhood immunisation team will offer you a clinic appointment.

### **Helping to protect your child against meningococcal disease and septicaemia**

The meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine is replacing the routine meningococcal C (MenC) vaccine for all children in school years 9, 10 and 11.

MenACWY vaccination helps to protect your child against four types of meningococcal bacteria (groups A, C, W and Y) that can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). These diseases are very serious and can kill, especially if not diagnosed early. Cases of meningococcal W disease ("MenW") in England have increased significantly in recent years, and it is in response to this rise in cases that this vaccine is being introduced.

### **Helping to protect your child against diphtheria, tetanus and polio**

The DTP booster vaccine helps protect your child against diphtheria, tetanus and polio.

Diphtheria is a serious disease that can damage the heart and nervous system, and in severe cases, it can kill.

Tetanus is a painful disease affecting the nervous system which can lead to muscle spasms, cause breathing problems and can kill.

Polio is a virus that attacks the nervous system which can cause permanent paralysis of muscles. If it affects the chest muscles or the brain, polio can kill.

### **Helping to protect your child against measles, mumps and rubella (German measles)**

If your child missed their MMR vaccination when they were younger, they can be given two doses of MMR vaccine to protect them.

It's especially important for teenagers leaving home for college to be up-to-date with the MMR vaccine as they are at higher risk of measles, mumps and rubella which are highly infectious conditions that can have serious, and potentially fatal, complications. This can also lead to complications during pregnancy that affects the unborn baby.

If you would like more details, please visit [www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx) where you can find information about the diseases and the vaccine, as well as links to other useful websites. You can also talk to the school nurse, your GP or practice nurse.

We hope that this information addresses any question you or your child might have about the vaccination programme

**If your child has already received their MenC vaccine and the DTP they will still need to have the MenACWY to ensure they are fully protected. If your child has already had any of these vaccinations at their GP Surgery they do not need to have it repeated.**

If you and your child would like the opportunity to bring their Immunisations status up to date please contact us at [childhood.immunisations@hdfnhs.uk](mailto:childhood.immunisations@hdfnhs.uk) or the address above and we will send you a consent form. If we do not hear from you we will assume your child has been vaccinated

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Wigin  
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5 to 19 Children's Services  
Harrogate and District Foundation Trust