

Your Growing Healthy Team are here for all children and young people, providing support, encouraging healthy lifestyles and protecting those who are most vulnerable.

Joseph Rowntree School

February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**REMINDER:**

**HPV Vaccination: Protecting Your Child Against Cancers**

The HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccination is being offered to **all 12 and 13 year old children in Year 8**. We originally wrote to you in May/June 2020 to invite you to consent for your child. If you already did this and received an automatic confirmation email **you do not need to take any further action** and may ignore this letter.

If you have **not yet consented** for your child to receive this vaccination in school, please see below for details about the vaccine and instructions for how to give your consent if you wish to do so.

***How do I give my consent?***

1. Go to [www.hdft.nhs.uk/schoolvaccinations](http://www.hdft.nhs.uk/schoolvaccinations)
2. Enter the School Code **121711** and click **“Find School”**.
3. **Complete the form** with your child’s information and parent/guardian contact information\*.
4. Click the **green “Submit” button**.

\*Once submitted, if you provide a valid email address, you will receive an automatic confirmation email. We will also email you to let you know that your child has been vaccinated in school. If your child has specific medical requirements, one of our nurses may need to get in touch before we are due to visit school. We routinely share your child’s vaccination information with your registered GP surgery.

**The deadline for online consents is **07/03/2021****

***Why is this vaccine being offered?***

The HPV vaccine helps to protect against:

- Head and Neck cancers
- Cervical cancer
- Anal and Penile cancers
- Genital Warts

The HPV vaccination requires **two doses** to be given at least six months apart.

## *Is the HPV vaccine just for girls?*

Historically this vaccine has only been offered to girls as HPV is the main cause of **cervical cancer**. However, due to increasing rates of **head and neck cancers** in adulthood linked to HPV infection, the programme is **now being offered to boys as well**. Early vaccination gives us the opportunity to help prevent the spread of a very serious disease that affects over 3,000 adults every year in the UK and causes over 1,000 deaths.

## *Where can I find out more?*

For more information about why this vaccine is being offered:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine>

You can read the patient information leaflet for the HPV vaccine (Gardasil) here:

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.261.pdf>

We hope that the information provided addresses any concerns you or your child might have about the vaccination. By having the HPV vaccine they will be helping to protect themselves and others from very serious diseases later in life. It is important that this letter is shared with your child.

If you have any questions regarding this programme, or you believe your child's vaccination status is not up to date (**including MMR**), please contact the **Childhood Immunisation Team** by ringing **01423 542360** or emailing [hdfc.childhood.immunisations@nhs.net](mailto:hdfc.childhood.immunisations@nhs.net)

Please note that if you do not wish for your child to have this vaccine in school, you should still complete the form to formally register your non-consent.

Yours sincerely,

**Helen Harvey**

**Clinical Lead for Childhood Immunisations for North Yorkshire and City of York**

