

June 2019

Helston Community College
EE143981

Kernow Health CIC
School Immunisation Programme

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Dear Parent/Guardian

YOUR CHILD'S HPV VACCINATION IS NOW DUE

The high uptake of the HPV vaccine among girls has reduced the overall risk of unvaccinated boys and girls coming into contact with the HPV viruses. For the first time we are extending our HPV vaccination programme to boys age 12-13.

Girls age 12-13 in school years 8 and 9 are offered the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccination and boys in year 8 are now being offered this as part of the NHS childhood immunisation programme. The vaccine protects against HPV related cancers such as cervical cancer in women and throat and neck cancers in both men and women; it is offered at schools in England as a course of 2 injections. In this first year of delivery for boys, they will receive their first dose in year 8 and second dose the following year, which is consistent with the HPV vaccination programme for girls.

According to Cancer Research UK, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women under the age of 35. In the UK, 2900 women a year are diagnosed with cervical cancer - that is around eight women every day. It is estimated that about 400 lives could be saved every year in the UK as a result of vaccinating girls before they are infected with HPV. The number of diagnoses of genital warts in England has also fallen sharply in both girls and boys since the vaccination programme started, suggesting that boys are already benefiting indirectly from the girls' programme through 'herd immunity' protection. Extension of the HPV programme will save even more lives.

We are due to visit your child's school on **Tuesday 24th September**. In order to access the online consent form, please click on the following link

<https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/SecondarySchool>

You will need to enter the unique code for your child's school. The code is **EE143981**. Please submit your form by **Tuesday 17th September** to ensure your child receives their vaccination. If you experience any problems accessing the form, please telephone **01872 221105/06** and the team will be happy to help.

Please find attached more information about the HPV universal programme. Please also note that as in previous years you must opt-in to the programme. If a consent form is not submitted your child will **not** be vaccinated. If you decide not to have your child vaccinated please let us know so we can enter this on your child's medical records.

Chair: Dr Adam Ellery

Chief Executive: Carolyn Andrews

Kernow Health CIC | Company Number: 07551978 | Registered Office: 1st Floor, Cudmore House, Oak Lane, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3LP

- If you submitted a form giving consent for your daughter to be immunised when she was in year 8, you do not need to re-submit. This is because you have consented to the full treatment, i.e. 2 doses of the vaccine. If you are unsure, please call the team on **01872 221105/06** and they will be able to advise.
- **Please note: Your child can self-consent to treatment if they are considered competent to do so by one of our nurses; this is known as Gillick competency. If you require any further information in this regard, please contact us.**

We are trying to improve how we communicate with patients. Please tell us if you need information in a different format or communication support.

Yours faithfully

Dr Terese Tubman

GP Clinical Lead School Immunisation Service