



# PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

13 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

## Vaccine Offers to Young People

We have had the following guidance from the Community and School Aged Immunisation Service about the vaccination programmes currently on offer to young people.

Flu vaccinations need to take place generally in the autumn term to ensure that children are vaccinated before the flu virus circulates. Other vaccines can be given at any time during the school year. Where possible, we have indicated when Parmiter's students will be offered vaccinations in school but this is dependent on the Immunisation Service's availability.

### Flu vaccine

The flu vaccine is an annual vaccination programme which helps provide protection to those who receive it and reduces transmission of flu to the wider community. For most young people, it is offered as a nasal spray. Those who cannot have the nasal spray because of pre-existing medical conditions or treatments are offered protection through an injected vaccine instead.

The nasal vaccine contains highly processed porcine gelatine as an essential stabiliser. For those who may not accept the use of porcine gelatine in medicines, a flu vaccine injection is available. Parents/carers should discuss their options with the school-aged immunisation team.

**The flu vaccine will be offered to our Parmiter's Year 7 to 11 students on either Friday 6 October or Monday 9 October 2023.**

### HPV vaccine

The HPV vaccine is offered to boys and girls in Year 8 to protect against genital warts and HPV related cancers such as cervical cancer, other genital cancers and cancers of the head and neck. Only ONE dose of the HPV vaccine is now required (rather than the previous two doses) to protect against HPV infection in this age group (unless individuals have specific health reasons, which may mean they require three doses).

**The HPV vaccination is likely to be offered to Parmiter's students during the Spring Term and we will keep you posted.**

Students who have missed their HPV vaccine will be offered catch-up opportunities by the school-aged immunisation team and GP practices.

### MenACWY vaccine

The MenACWY vaccine is offered to young people in Years 9 or 10 and protects against meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal column) and septicaemia (blood poisoning) caused by meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y.

**The MenACWY vaccination will be offered to our Year 9 students on 11 January 2024.**

*Nemo sibi nascitur:*

*Our values of community, aspiration and opportunity enable every individual to grow and flourish*

### **3 in 1 Teenage Booster**

The 3 in 1 teenage booster is offered to students in Years 9 or 10 and boosts protection against tetanus, diphtheria and polio.

### **MMR vaccine status check**

Ahead of vaccination sessions, the MMR vaccine status of the young person will be checked to see if any doses have been missed earlier in childhood. This vaccine is needed to provide protection against measles, mumps and rubella.

If a dose has been missed this will be given by the school-aged immunisation team if they are able to, or a referral made to the young person's registered general practice.

### **Why vaccination dropped off during the pandemic**

The pandemic presented many challenges for the routine vaccination of adolescents such as school absences and closures because of COVID-19. Since then, there may also be some 'vaccine fatigue' among parents following multiple vaccine offers in close succession and confusion about what is being offered, with uptake rates still not back to pre-pandemic levels.

### **Why it matters if some young people are not vaccinated**

When a high percentage of the population is vaccinated, it is difficult for infectious diseases to spread because there are not many people who can be infected. This is called 'herd immunity' and it gives protection to vulnerable people such as newborn babies, elderly people and those who are too sick to be vaccinated.

Herd immunity only works if most people in the population are vaccinated. Despite relatively high vaccination rates in England, rates are much lower in some parts of the country and in some communities. If a young person lives in an area where vaccine coverage is low and they are not vaccinated, it's quite likely that many of the people they come into contact with will not be vaccinated either. If one of these people gets an infectious disease like measles, they can easily pass it on to the other unvaccinated people around them, and in some cases the disease can then spread very quickly through the population.

### **How parent/carer consent will be obtained**

A consent form and information leaflet provided by the school-age immunisation service will be used to seek parental consent. Consent forms are usually completed electronically and it is important that they are completed by the deadline provided. Parents/carers will also be provided with a contact number to call the vaccination team in case of any queries.

For further information about vaccinations for young people, please click on link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisations-for-young-people>

Yours sincerely



Mrs F Craigie  
School Matron