

Berkshire School Aged Immunisation Team

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Spring Term 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

YOUR CHILD'S Meningococcal ACWY & Diphtheria and Polio Booster immunisations are NOW DUE

All young people in Year 9 are now due to receive their 3-in-1 (tetanus/diphtheria/polio) booster alongside the Meningococcal ACWY vaccination. These immunisations consist of two vaccinations, one injection given in each arm). All young people should have already received four doses of tetanus, diphtheria and polio the first three doses are given as a baby, the fourth dose when they were between three and five years old. The dose then offered in year 9 is classed as a booster dose, as it boosts their bodies immune response to continue to fight off these diseases. The meningitis vaccine protects against 4 strains of the meningococcal virus that have been found to be more prominent in young people at school leaver age.

These vaccines protect young people against serious and potentially life-threatening diseases:

- **Tetanus** is a serious disease which affects the central nervous system that is caused by bacteria found in soil. The disease is spread through open cuts and wounds.
- **Diphtheria** is highly contagious and potentially fatal bacterial infections that can affect the nose, throat and sometimes the skin.
- **Polio** is a serious viral infection that used to be common in the UK and worldwide. It's rare nowadays because it can be prevented with vaccination.
- **Meningococcal A, C, W and Y** disease that cause meningitis and blood poisoning (septicaemia) which can be fatal.

For further information about these diseases and the vaccines that protect against them please visit:

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

We are due to immunise at your child's school (**Reading School**) on **07 May 2021**. For your child to be vaccinated you are required to complete an online consent form, (if more than one child you will need to complete a form per child). Please click on this link <https://www.berkshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/DTP> to complete the form. You will need to enter the unique code for your child's school. The code is:

BK136449

Please submit your form by **06 May 2021 by 12pm** to ensure your child receives their vaccinations. If you experience any problems accessing the form, please telephone 0300 365 0077 and the team will be happy to help you. If you do not wish for your child to be vaccinated, we ask that you still complete a consent form online but as a non-consent (this option will be available once you have completed your child's details and continue on to the next page).

Thank you in advance.

Kind Regards,

The Berkshire School Aged Immunisation Team