

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM OXLEAS NHS TRUST REGARDING
YOUR CHILD'S TETANUS AND MENINGITIS VACCINATIONS

Dear Parent/Guardian

As part of the National Childhood Vaccination schedule your son/daughter is being offered the following vaccinations: the tetanus, diphtheria and polio (3 in 1 booster) to complete the course and the meningitis ACWY. This is being offered routinely to all children in Year 9 in the Royal borough of Greenwich.

Tetanus, diphtheria, and polio (3 in 1 booster)

This vaccination is given as a single injection into the upper arm. It tops up the protective effect of their earlier baby and pre-school vaccinations and protects against three separate diseases – tetanus, diphtheria and polio. **This completes the course given as a child only if it's the 5th dose.**

Meningitis ACWY

This vaccination was introduced in response to a rapidly growing increase in cases of a highly aggressive strain of meningococcal disease group W which causes meningitis and septicaemia and can kill in hours, those who recover may be left severely disabled. The vaccine also protects against 3 other meningococcal groups A, C and Y. It is given as a single injection into the upper arm.

Please complete the e-consent form using the following link online at

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/Oxleas/imms/Oxi2324TB/141163> <http://qlink.uk/Oxi2324TB/143928>

Please ensure that you have created a school screener account. If you experience difficulties accessing the E Consent system, please

email <https://parentsupport.schoolscreener.com/portal/en/home>

and they will be able to assist you.

To use the consent form, you will need to enter one of the following details for your child:

- NHS Number or
- Legal surname, their date of birth and postcode

The vaccination clinic will be held at your child's school on **Tuesday 23 January 2024** (Surname A-J) and **Friday 1 March 2024** (Surname K-Z)

Please complete the online consent form before the above date. This must be completed with YES or NO. Please note that if you change your child's consent you must allow the team 48 hours prior to the immunisation session.

If you are not the young person's parent or legal guardian with full parental responsibility you will need to obtain **Formal consent** from their parent or social worker who can legally consent, along with a legal document stating otherwise.

If your son / daughter is currently under the hospital for any treatment or investigations, we may require a letter or printed email which you will need to obtain from their consultant/doctor to ensure it is safe and effective for them to receive the vaccination. This is required in advance of the school vaccination session and should be attached to the consent form. You can either upload the letter or send via email to oxl-tr.immunisations@nhs.net

You can visit www.nhs.uk/Td/IPV & Men ACWY for further information. **Please note there is a translate icon in the top right- hand corner on this site.** Please discuss the information and consent with your son/daughter. We will update your child's health record as appropriate.

If you require any other advice or have any queries you can contact **Oxleas Immunisation Team on 0208 320 5741/5742/5721**

Yours sincerely

Dr Huma Iqbal
Consultant Community Paediatrician – Immunisation Advisor

TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA AND POLIO (3 in 1 BOOSTER) and MENINGITIS A, C, W, Y

What is tetanus?

Tetanus is a painful disease that affects the muscles and can cause severe breathing problems. It is caused by the tetanus toxin released by bacteria that are found in soil and manure. The bacteria can get into the body through cuts or burns. Tetanus can kill. This vaccination cannot give herd immunity, so it is vital every young person receives this vaccine.

What is diphtheria?

Diphtheria is a serious disease that usually begins with a sore throat and can quickly cause breathing problems. And can obstruct the throat, It can damage the heart and nervous system, and in severe cases, it can kill.

What is polio?

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.

What is meningitis?

Meningitis is inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord. There are two types of meningitis: bacterial and viral. Bacterial meningitis is very serious and left untreated can cause severe brain damage; infect the blood (septicemia), cause disability and death.

Commonly asked questions

If I was immunised against tetanus, diphtheria, polio as a child, am I still protected?

You may still have some protection, but you need the booster to complete your routine immunisations and give you longer-term protection.

How many boosters do I need to have?

You need a total of five doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and polio vaccines to build up and keep your immunity. You should have had:

- the first three doses as a baby
- the fourth dose when you were between three and five years old, before you started school, and
- the fifth dose is due in Years 9/10 (aged 13 to 14)
- Meningitis A, C, W, Y is a one- off vaccination.

Will I need more boosters in the future?

You will probably not need further boosters of these vaccines. However, you may need extra doses of some vaccines if you are visiting certain countries or if you suffer a deep or dirty wound - check with your doctor or nurse.**re there any reasons why I should not be immunised?**

There are very few teenagers who cannot have the tetanus 3 in 1 booster and meningitis ACWY vaccines.

You should not have the vaccines if you have had:

- A confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous vaccine, or
- A confirmed anaphylactic reaction to neomycin, streptomycin or polymyxin B (antibiotics that may be added to vaccines in very tiny amounts).
- are unwell or have fever on day of vaccination.
- medical reasons

What are the side effects?

When side effects do occur after having these vaccinations, they are most likely to be mild and happen within two or three days. Common reactions are loss of appetite, mild fever, pain, redness and swelling at injection site, headache. Following vaccination your child will be given an advice slip to inform you of what vaccinations they have had, side effects and after care.

What is Gillick Competence?

If a signed E consent form is not received and your son / daughter request either the DTP/Men ACWY vaccine, they will be assessed using Gillick competence questions on the consent form and can self-consent if deemed appropriate. You will receive a letter post vaccine via your son / daughter advising you of this. Children under the age of 16 can consent to their own treatment if they're believed to have enough intelligence, competence and understanding to fully appreciate what's involved in their treatment. This is known as being Gillick competent.