



Tameside and Glossop
Integrated Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Immunisation Team
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Introduction of a universal HPV immunisation programme September 2019

Dear Headteacher / Colleague,

I am writing to provide information about the forthcoming expansion of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme in schools.

From 1 September 2019 the vaccine will be offered to year 8 boys as well as girls as part of the routine school based vaccination schedule in England.

The original aim of the HPV vaccination programme was to prevent cervical cancer in women. Since the programme was introduced, evidence that HPV is responsible for other cancers in both men and women has strengthened. In addition, evidence suggests that vaccinating boys is likely to prevent extra cases of cervical cancer in unvaccinated women.

This evidence informed the decision by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to advise that the HPV vaccination programme should be expanded to include boys. The JCVI statement about HPV vaccination and expansion to boys is available here: [JCVI statement: extending the HPV vaccination programme – conclusions](#). The Government accepted the JCVI's advice and announced in July 2018 that the programme would include boys.

The expanded HPV vaccination programme includes any child who is in school year 8. Therefore, we will also include eligible children who may be home-educated or educated in alternative provision.

We would greatly appreciate your help in working with your local school immunisation nurses to ensure that all eligible pupils are identified and enabled to receive the vaccination.

Key points about the changes to the programme:

- The same vaccine that is currently used for the girls' programme (Gardasil®, (which protects against HPV types 6,11,16,18)) will be used for the universal programme.
- For practical reasons, any individual in school year 8, (regardless of their date of birth), will be offered HPV immunisation.
- A second dose will be offered either within the same school year (separated by a minimum of 6 months) or in the following year.
- A catch-up programme for older boys will not be offered.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support and hard work in delivering immunisation programmes to school-aged children and young people. In the UK we have among the highest HPV vaccination coverage rates in the world and this is largely because of our school-based programme and the excellent support provided by schools to the local school immunisation nurses. As a result, our young people and adult population are well protected against serious diseases.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter please do not hesitate to contact us on the above number.

Yours sincerely

School Nursing Immunisation Team