

Dear Parent/Guardian

### A SCHOOL BASED IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

**To offer your child the School Leaver Booster to protect against tetanus, diphtheria and polio, and the introduction of the Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) replacing the adolescent Meningococcal C vaccine.**

Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust Immunisation Team has been commissioned to deliver the School Leaver Booster and the Men ACWY vaccines. These two vaccinations will be offered via a school based programme to all pupils in the current year nine (aged 13 to 14 years) group.

The MenACWY vaccination helps to protect your child against four types of meningococcal bacteria (groups A, C, W, and Y) that can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). These diseases are very serious especially if not diagnosed early, up to 25% of adolescents can carry the bacteria in their nose and throat without showing any signs or symptoms of the disease. Cases of meningococcal W disease have increased significantly in recent years and it is in response to this rise in cases that this vaccine has been introduced.

#### **School Leaver Booster;**

This vaccine offers protection against tetanus, diphtheria and polio, your child may still have some protection following vaccinations as an infant but they will need these boosters to complete their routine immunisations and give long-term protection. In total your child requires five doses of tetanus, diphtheria and polio vaccines to build up and keep immunity, they should have received the first three doses as a baby, the fourth between three and five years old and their fifth dose in year 9 (aged 13 to 14 years).

#### **Meningococcal ACWY;**

For protection against meningitis ACWY; the vaccine will be offered as a once only immunisation, at this present time booster doses are not indicated. If you would like more details about the disease and vaccine, please visit: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>

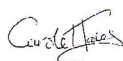
We would be grateful if you can complete **both sides** of the consent form and return it directly to school within one week. Both injections will be given at the same time in school or a clinic appointment may be sent if they are absent on the immunisation date. The injections can be given one in each upper arm or 2.5 cm apart in the same arm. Your child will be assessed on the day to ensure they are well, if they have an acute illness with a raised temperature we will postpone the injections.

There will be very few teenagers who cannot have both these injections, but they should not receive them if they 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 small amounts).

Further information is available on [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations) or you can contact the Immunisation Team on the above phone number or email address. If you wish to access further advice and information about how to support your child in managing any anxiety about these injections, this is available on [www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk).

The NHS Friends and Family Survey is a way of gathering your feedback about your experience and helps to drive improvement in our service. To complete the online survey please use the following link: <http://www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/fft-survey>

Yours sincerely



Carole Hales  
BCG/HPV Co-ordinator

**Ellesmere College Immunisation  
Dates:  
Friday 26th May 2017**