

July 2022

Parent / carer  
Year 8 student  
Meadowfield School

Dear Parent/ Carer

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 - Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination in school.**

We are inviting your child to be vaccinated against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).

HPV infection can cause cervical cancer, head cancer, neck cancer or anal / genital cancer in later life.

This cancer prevention vaccination is offered to all students from Year 8.

The HPV vaccination is a two-dose course. Dose one is given in year 8 and dose two when your child goes into year 9. To get the best protection, your child needs both vaccines.

**Please discuss this immunisation with your child and complete the online consent form at:**  
<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms> before midnight on **13th September 2022**.

**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**

Please submit either a YES consent or a NO consent as we will continue to invite your child to be vaccinated unless we hear from you. This may mean that one of our team calls you to obtain verbal consent over the phone.

If we are unable to vaccinate your child at school you will receive an email with a link to our online clinic booking site where you can book an immunisation appointment.

Cont./

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

Please note that a young person can consent to having a vaccination if they are assessed as competent to do so. For information on young people's right to consent please go to: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/consent-to-treatment/children>

If you have any questions, please [email us](#), phone us on 0300 123 5205, text us on 07401320923 or [click here to Web chat](#)

For more information about the vaccinations please go to: [Immunisations for young people - your questions answered \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

### How can we help you?

We can provide communication support or information in different formats. Please tell us as soon as possible, or ask someone to tell us on your behalf, if you need any support, including the following:

- An interpreter, a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter, or information in another language
- Information in large print, Braille, Easy Read (using pictures) or audio.

Kind regards



Catherine Burton

Head of School Age Immunisation Service  
Kent and Medway Immunisation Team  
Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

Find us on our social media pages and give us a follow

   @kchftimmsteam

### Your information

If you would like to find out what happens to personal information held about you, please read the [your personal information](#) section on our Legal page. You can also read our [privacy policy](#) for more information.



**NHS**

# HPV

**vaccination**

Protecting against HPV infection to  
help reduce your risk of cancer



arm  
against  
cancer



## The universal HPV

### immunisation programme

More than 280 million doses of the HPV vaccine have been given worldwide, including 120 million doses in the US and over 10 million in the UK. The HPV vaccine has been offered to all girls in school year 8 since September 2008. From September 2019 the vaccine has also been offered to year 8 boys.

This is because the evidence is clear that the HPV vaccine helps protect both boys and girls from HPV-related cancers.

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### **The HPV vaccine helps protect you from being infected by the human papillomavirus (HPV).**

This virus increases the risk of developing some cancers later in life, such as:

- cervical cancer
- some mouth and throat cancers
- some cancers of the anus and genital areas

The HPV vaccine does not protect against other sexually transmitted infections.



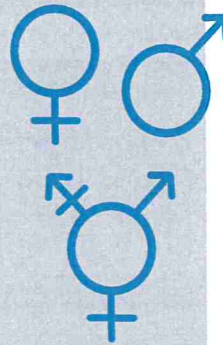
# HPV and how it spreads

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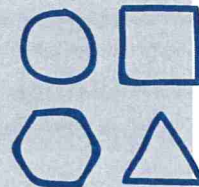
**HPV infection is very common.** More than 70% of unvaccinated people will get it

70%

**HPV lives on the skin in and around the whole genital area,** so using condoms does not provide complete protection from HPV



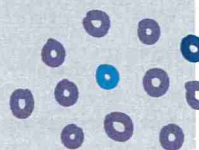
There are **many different types** of HPV



Most HPV infections do not cause any symptoms and **get better on their own**



**Some do not clear up** and can lead to cancer whilst others cause genital warts



## **What difference has the HPV vaccine made so far?**

Over 80 million people have received the vaccine worldwide.

In time it is expected that the vaccine will save hundreds of lives every year in the UK. A recent Scottish study has already shown a 71% reduction in pre-cancerous cervical disease in young women.

Ten years since the start of the vaccination programme in the UK there has been a big decline in HPV infections and in the number of young people with genital warts.



## **Having the HPV vaccine**

The vaccine is given in your arm and you need 2 doses to be fully protected.

The first injection is given in year 8 and the second one usually 6 to 12 months later. You will be informed when you are due the second dose.





To give you the best protection, the vaccine should be given before you become sexually active.

If you are sexually active you should still have the vaccine.



## The HPV vaccine

**Gardasil** has been the HPV vaccine used in the **NHS vaccination schedule** since 2012.

Sometime during the 2021 to 2022 academic year the HPV vaccine used in the programme will switch to Gardasil 9.

**Gardasil 9** can be given for the first and second dose or to complete a course that was previously started with Gardasil.

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## I missed my vaccination, can I still have it?

Yes. If you missed either of your vaccinations at school, you should try and catch-up as soon as possible. Contact your school nurse, school immunisation team or GP practice to arrange an appointment. You remain eligible to receive the vaccine up until your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.





## **Women who have had the vaccine will still need to go for cervical screening**

All women aged 25 and over in England are offered cervical screening tests.

The vaccines will prevent up to 90% of cervical cancer cases, but women should still attend for cervical screening when invited to do so.

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## **What about the other cancers?**

There are currently no screening programmes for other HPV-related cancers. If you are worried about any symptoms speak to your GP practice.



For more information about possible side effects of the vaccine or to see the patient information leaflet for the vaccine, visit [www.nhs.uk/hpv](http://www.nhs.uk/hpv)

# Remember



to get your 2 doses of HPV vaccine at least 6 months apart



to get your HPV vaccine now, to protect yourself against a number of cancers in the future



in time it is expected that the vaccine will save hundreds of lives every year in the UK

**For more information, visit [www.nhs.uk/hpv](http://www.nhs.uk/hpv)**

A complete list of ingredients for the Gardasil vaccine is given in the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL):

[www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/19033](http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/19033)

A complete list of ingredients for the Gardasil 9 vaccine is given in the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL): [www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7330/pil](http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7330/pil)

The Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC): [www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=gardasil](http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=gardasil)



This leaflet has been produced by the UK Health Security Agency.  
**Immunisation, helping to protect everyone at every age.**