



20/2/19

Dear Head Teacher

I am the Screening and Immunisation Manager for Kent and Medway, we currently commission Kent Community Healthcare Trust, via their Kent Immunisation Service (KIS), to undertake school immunisation programmes within all secondary schools in Kent and Medway.

I am writing to inform you of national changes to the school immunisation programme. From September 2019, boys will be eligible for the HPV vaccine. To accommodate the change, KIS will offer the first vaccine to all boys and girls in Year 8 and offer the second vaccine in Year 9, again to all girls and boys. KIS will be contacting you soon to schedule in visits. Community Clinics will be available for appointments if the young person misses their school session.

In Year 9, KIS also offer all young people the Meningitis ACWY vaccination and a booster of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio.

Uptake data achieved in 2017/18 for each school-aged immunisation programme is available below. Each month we review how many young people are immunised in each school and are concerned that these numbers continue to fall, this is a real worry especially as you may be aware that in Surrey last year a student died from Meningitis, if they had received the vaccine this death may have been preventable. We know that some parents are not aware of the severity of the diseases the vaccines protect against and do not consider that their children are at risk and so we need all the help we can to raise awareness of the importance of immunising children.

I am therefore asking you for your help to address this and support the national school aged immunisation programme. I would be grateful if you would consider adding a note to your website or newsletter reminding parents of the dates that KIS are visiting and encourage parents to complete and return the consent forms. You may even be able to display posters or discuss the immunisations in class. Resources are available through the national immunisation websites, links below. Some parents have a misunderstanding that they can obtain the immunisation at their GP, this is not correct. Only KIS are contracted to provide them.

If you are aware of a young person who has an incomplete immunisation schedule, KIS may be able to help as young people can be referred to their service, further information is available from: www.kentcht.nhs.uk/immsreferral. For further information please contact KIS directly, either by telephone: 0300 123 5205 or by email kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net

I do hope you can continue to support your local school immunisation team as they strive to provide the best protection for Kent and Medway students, please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Kind regards

Paula McLachlan
Screening and Immunisation Manager

Data for academic year 2017/18

Immunisation Programme	Kent	Medway	England	National uptake target
HPV Dose 1 Year 8	88.3	89.2	86.9	90%
HPV Dose 2 Year 8	81.6	85.0	N/A	90%
HPV Dose 1 Year 9	87.5	87.0	89.1	90%
HPV Dose 2 Year 9	82.2	83.5	83.8	90%
Men ACWY Year 9	87.3	87.4	86.2	80%
Td/IPV	86.7	86.1	85.5	80%

Source: NHS England LTs and/or Screening and Immunisation Teams and their providers submitted aggregate LA level vaccination data manually to PHE via the ImmForm website

National resources are available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisations-resources-for-schools>