



February 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian

**The HPV vaccine is now being offered to all 12 to 13 year old pupils in school year 8.**

**What is the HPV vaccination?**

Please read the leaflet enclosed which will provide you with further information about the virus and the vaccination.

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine has been part of the national immunisation programme since 2008 and is delivered across Hampshire by Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust School-Age Immunisation teams. The vaccine, called Gardasil (which protects against HPV types 6, 11, 16 & 18), is the same vaccine that has been used for the girls' programme since its introduction in 2008. This vaccine protects against HPV-related cancers.

**Who is it for?**

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine will be offered to boys, in addition to girls, as part of the routine school-age immunisation programme in England from September 2019. This follows the government's announcement in July 2018 to include HPV vaccination of boys. Across Hampshire we plan to implement this with a 2 year programme where the first dose will be offered during the summer term of 2020 and the second dose during the summer term of 2021. It is recommended for girls and boys aged 12-13 years because the vaccination works best if they receive it before an infection occurs.

**What are the benefits?**

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. Australia have been vaccinating both boys and girls since 2013 and the United States since 2011. HPV vaccine is not routinely available from your GP. By having the HPV vaccine they will be protecting themselves and others from a very serious disease in later life.

**How can I find out more?**

Further information about HPV vaccine can be found at [www.nhs.uk/hpv](http://www.nhs.uk/hpv) and Wessex Healthier Together <https://what0-18.nhs.uk/>.

If you would like to speak to your Immunisation team about this vaccine please contact them on the number above. Alternatively you can speak with your GP or practice nurse.

We would urge you to sign the enclosed consent form and return it to school as soon as possible.

If you decide not to get your child vaccinated please return the completed form so that your child's health record can be updated.

Yours faithfully

**School-age Immunisation Team**

**Whilst checking your child's immunisation status, remember to ensure that all vaccinations are up to date including MMR 1&2 so that they are fully protected for adult life.**