

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would firstly like to wish you a happy new year and I hope that you managed to get some of a break over the Winter break.

As we are well aware COVID 19 is not looking like it is going anywhere soon. Although the schools are closed, we have community clinics in your local areas to be able to continue vaccinating and protecting your children with the HPV vaccination.

We are in the process of actively calling every parent whose child has a consent form with us (electronic or paper) and who did not have a vaccination on the schools session date either due to absence or refusal or school closure, and booking in to our community clinics.

If you did not return your consent form (paper or electronic) and would like to book into a community clinic, please contact the team on **0300 790 0594** to book an appointment, (also if you have not heard from us by the end of next week and wish for your child to be booked in)

Kindest Regards

Becky Twist

Clinical Delivery Manager

There is nothing more important than safeguarding your child's health which is why we'd like your consent to give your child the HPV vaccination.

HPV (Human papillomavirus) causes around 9,000 cancers each year in the UK, most of which can be prevented by having the HPV vaccine. HPV is responsible globally for 5% of all cancers.

### **Why should your child have the HPV vaccination?**

- The vaccine protects against six types of cancer caused by the HPV viruses, such as cervical cancer, some mouth and throat cancers and cancer of the anus and genital areas.
- The vaccine protects against four types of cervical cancer that cause 70% of cervical cancers and is present in 60% of head and neck cancers.
- The vaccine is more effective in preventing cancers associated with HPV if given at a younger age which is why it's offered to people aged 12-13
- The HPV vaccine has been shown to prevent hundreds of deaths from cervical cancer every year and is expected to prevent many more as it is extended to become a gender neutral programme, covering boys and girls.

If your child receives their vaccine before their 15th birthday they'll need 2 doses of vaccine, after 15 they'll require 3 doses to get the same level of protection. Both first and second doses will be offered in year 8, approximately 6 months apart.

For maximum protection your child must receive two doses of HPV vaccine.

Additional information about the HPV vaccination is available on these links to the [National HPV Leaflet](#) or [NHS Choices](#).