

Bexley Immunisation Team

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14th March 2025

Dear parent or carer,

Your year 9 child's teenage vaccinations are now due.

This includes two single injections:

- The 3-in-1 teenage booster – the diphtheria, tetanus, and polio booster (Td/IPV)
- Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)

Along with these vaccines, your child can receive the following vaccination, if they are missing one or both doses:

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine (MMR)

If you would like further information on these vaccinations, please visit

www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

Please discuss these vaccines with your child, and use the link provided to access and complete the electronic consent form: <https://sav.hrch.nhs.uk/dtp/2024/bexley>

The Bexley Immunisation Team will visit your child's school on 28th March 2025

Even if you decide not to vaccinate your child this year, please ensure you complete the consent form. As providers of school age vaccinations, NHS England requires that we provide numbers of parents that do not consent to their child being vaccinated. If you do not complete your consent form, you may be contacted by phone, text, or letter, to offer your child future opportunities to receive vaccination. If you return a 'no' consent, we will not make any further contact this year.

For more information on this, please see our privacy notice:

www.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/patients-and-families/patient-records-and-privacy/privacy-notices

In the absence of a signed consent form from parents, we invite young people to self-consent, providing they can demonstrate:

- an understanding of the vaccinations due.
- the benefits of vaccination compared to being unvaccinated.
- the potential side effects of vaccination.

This is done on a case-by-case basis – ultimately, the decision to consent is the young person's choice. This is in line with the Gillick Guideline Competence.

We have included some frequently asked questions about the 3-in-1 teenage booster, MenACWY vaccine and the MMR vaccine below.

If you have any queries, please contact your Immunisation team:

- Email: HRCH.ImmunisationTeamBexleyMailbox@nhs.net
- Telephone: 0203 903 3380

Yours sincerely,

Bexley Immunisation Team

3-in-1 teenage booster and Meningitis ACWY vaccine

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need to get these vaccines?

The 3-in-1 teenage booster and Meningitis ACWY vaccine will ensure you are protected as you grow. You can find more information on the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

Do these vaccines contain porcine gelatine?

No! Both vaccines are gelatine free, and can be given to those who avoid gelatine for personal reasons.

I'm nervous about getting the vaccines - what can I do?

Tell your immunisation nurse - they are used to helping people who are nervous and will work with you to overcome your fears.

If you don't want to get your vaccines at school, you can come to a catch-up clinic. These clinics are quieter and calmer, and you will have more time to talk to a nurse about your nerves.

Can I have these vaccines at my GP surgery?

Your GP surgery is not commissioned to vaccinate you. Getting your vaccines in school also means you don't have to go to the surgery when you aren't ill.

Is it safe to have the vaccines at the same time?

It is safe to give both vaccines at the same time. The nurse will normally give each vaccine in a different arm, but you can ask to have both vaccines in the same arm.

Are there any side effects?

Possible side effects include:

- swelling or pain at the injection site
- a headache
- feeling or being sick
- a raised temperature

More serious side effects, such as a severe allergic reaction are very rare.

What if I miss my vaccine at school?

Our Immunisation teams run catch-up clinics after school, at the weekends, and during the school holidays. Head to our website to see all the details of our clinics:

hrch.nhs.uk/services/search-services/immunisations-children

The MMR vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need the MMR vaccine?

Measles cases are on the rise in London. Measles is a very serious illness - the best way to protect yourself is to have two doses of the MMR vaccine.

When should I have received the MMR vaccine?

According to the NHS Immunisation schedule, children are first offered the MMR vaccine at:

- 1 year old
- 3 year and 4 months old

However, you can catch-up with your missed vaccines at any time. You need two doses to be fully protected.

Are there any side effects?

Possible side effects include:

- swelling or pain at the injection site
- feeling or being sick
- a raised temperature
- swollen glands, a measles-like rash

More serious side effects, such as a severe allergic reaction are very rare. There are no links between the MMR vaccine and autism.

Does the vaccine contain gelatine?

There are two MMR vaccines: MMRVaxPro and Priorix. The MMRVaxPro vaccine contains a small amount of porcine gelatine.

If you do not consume gelatine, speak to your immunisation nurse. They will ensure you receive the Priorix vaccine, which is porcine gelatine free.

How do I check my vaccination status?

If you received the MMR vaccine as a child, it will be recorded in your Red Book. You can also ask your GP surgery to check.

Can I get the MMR vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?

It is safe to have the MMR vaccine at the same time as most other vaccines. The nurse will check if you can have the vaccine.