

Dear parent or carer,

Your year 8 student's HPV vaccination is now due.

This includes one single injection:

- The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

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

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine (MMR)

The HPV vaccine provides protection against the human papillomavirus (HPV), which can cause a range of cancers. These include cervical cancer, head and neck cancers, anal cancer, penile cancer, and genital warts. If you would like further information on the HPV vaccine, please visit www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/hpv-vaccine/.

Please discuss the vaccines with your child, and use the link provided to access and complete the electronic consent form:

<https://cypcis.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/hpv/2025/bexley>

The Bexley Immunisation Team will visit your young person's school on 6th May 2026

If you do not complete your consent form, you may be contacted by phone, text, or letter, to offer your child future opportunities to have their vaccination. If you return a 'no' consent, we will not make any further contact this year.

For more information on our consent process, please see our privacy notice:

www.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/services/service-search-z/immunisations-childrens

We offer all young people the opportunity to receive their vaccinations in an appropriate and comfortable environment. If your young person is anxious about receiving their vaccination in school, you are welcome to attend a clinic setting in the community. Our teams hold clinics over the school holiday periods, some weekends, and after school sessions. Please contact your local school immunisation team to book a clinic slot.

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, in line with the Gillick Guideline Competence.

We have included some frequently asked questions about the HPV vaccine and the MMR vaccine below.

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

- 0203 903 3380
- KRFT.BexleyImms@nhs.net

Yours sincerely,

Bexley Immunisation Team

HPV vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

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. The nurse who vaccinates you will be trained to deal with allergic reactions and treat them immediately.

I'm a boy - do I need the vaccine?

Yes - the vaccine is offered to all students. HPV can be spread by anyone. It can cause a range of cancers, and genital warts. Being vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself.

Does this vaccine contain porcine gelatine?

No - this vaccine is gelatine free, and can be given to anyone who avoids gelatine for personal reasons.

Can I consent for my own vaccines?

Wherever possible, consent is obtained from a parent or guardian before administering vaccination.

Young people under 16 years old can consent to their own treatment if they are deemed to understand the risks and benefits of receiving it. This is known as being Gillick competent. Each young person is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

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. Clinic details can be found on our website:

www.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/services/service-search-z/immunisations-childrens

The MMR vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

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 is no evidence that the MMR vaccine causes autism.

When should I have received the MMR vaccine?

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

- 1 year old
- 18 months old

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

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.

Can I consent for my own vaccines?

Wherever possible, consent is obtained from a parent or guardian before administering vaccination.

Young people under 16 years old can consent to their own treatment if they are deemed to understand the risks and benefits of receiving it. This is known as being Gillick competent. Each young person is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

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.