

**Belle Vue Girls**

School Immunisation Team  
New Mill  
Saltaire  
Bradford  
BD18 3LD

Tel: 01274 221269  
[www.bdct.nhs.uk](http://www.bdct.nhs.uk)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **National Routine HPV Vaccination Programme 2022/2023**

Vaccination is one of the most successful Public Health interventions giving protection against potentially fatal diseases for the whole of our population.

The HPV schedule in the UK consists of two doses and the vaccine is routinely offered in schools to boys and girls from year 8, as part of the national programme for vaccination of children and young people. A second dose is given with a minimum gap of 26 weeks, which may not be in the same academic school year.

**Catch up is available in school for children/young people who have not started or completed the vaccinations, by prior arrangement with the School Immunisation Service. However, it is not available on the NHS for boys born before 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2006.**

By having this vaccination, students are protected against the Human Papilloma Virus that causes some types of cancer and genital warts. For information on some of the positive benefits of having the HPV vaccination visit: [Information on HPV vaccination - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/important-new-vaccine-against-cancer-and-genital-warts)

Contained within this letter are some frequently asked questions and useful information about the virus and the vaccination. Further information is also available on the NHS Choices website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) (search for HPV) as well as links to other useful websites.

Please take this opportunity to check that your child's routine vaccinations are up to date. You can check this with your GP Practice. If you have any questions, you can also contact the Schools Immunisation Team on 01274 221269.

#### **How do I give consent for the HPV Vaccination Course?**

Complete the steps on the next page before the closing date and time, to consent for your child to have the HPV Vaccination Course. **The consent form will close 3 working days before the vaccination session date.**

**Your online consent form will close 3 working days before your school's session date.**

1. **Click on the following link:** [www.bradfordschoolimmunisations.co.uk/forms/HPV](http://www.bradfordschoolimmunisations.co.uk/forms/HPV)
2. **Enter and confirm your preferred email address** – you will receive a confirmation email following submission of the consent form.
3. **Enter your School code:**  
  
**BF138087**
4. **Complete and submit the consent form**, indicating your choice of consent – Please ensure you provide the Child's registered address and GP.

**Please Note – Even if you do not wish your child to receive the vaccination it is important to complete the refusal section of the consent form so that we are aware of your wishes.**

If you are unable to complete the online form, do not want your child to have this vaccination course, or wish to change your consent, please read the frequently asked questions for how to proceed.

We hope that the information provided helps you to make a positive decision about protecting your child against this cancer-causing virus, for which a vaccination is readily available.

Your sincerely

Saiqa Kauser

**Immunisation Service Lead and Clinical Manager**

### **Frequently asked questions**

**What do I do if I cannot complete the online consent form?** Contact the School Immunisation Team on 01274 221269 and complete a verbal consent with them **before the closing date and time.**

**What do I do if I do not want my child to have this vaccination course?** Please complete the online consent form following the steps in the parent letter, indicating that you do not give consent. In the absence of a completed form, we may offer your child the opportunity to consent to the HPV vaccination course themselves following an assessment of their competence and understanding of what's involved with this vaccination.

**What do I do if I have changed my mind after completing the online consent form?** You must contact the School Immunisation Team to change your consent prior to the vaccination session date.

**How will I know when my child has been vaccinated?** You will receive an email, sent to the email address you provided when completing the online form. If your child has not been vaccinated following submission of a positive consent form, your email will advise you of the reason for this and details of how to book into a catch-up Clinic.

**What if my child is absent on the day of the vaccination session?** You will receive an email advising that the vaccination was not completed as your child was absent on the day, your email will give details of how to book into a catch-up Clinic.

**What vaccines are being offered and why?** There are currently two vaccines available, Gardasil and Gardasil 9, Your child could be offered either of these vaccines for their first and/or second dose.

For the Patient Information Leaflets and further information please visit;

Gardasil: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/261/pil>

Gardasil 9: Gardasil 9 suspension for injection – Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) – (emc) ([medicines.org.uk](https://www.medicines.org.uk))

**Why is the vaccine given at 12 or 13 years of age?** HPV is spread by someone having sex or being sexually intimate with another who has the virus. Whilst most young people don't start having sex until they are 16 or over, it has been shown the vaccine provides the best protection if given at 12 – 13 years of age as the immune response is better. It is still important to have the vaccine even if a young person is sexually active as it can provide protection against any of the HPV types in the vaccine that they have not been exposed to.

**Can older girls and boys be vaccinated too?** Yes, they can contact the School Immunisation Service if they are still at school and wish to start or complete the course. Alternatively, they can contact their GP if they are no longer at school and under the age of 25 and they are eligible for the vaccine.

**What if they want the vaccination but as a parent/guardian, we would rather they didn't have it?** If you do not want your child to have these vaccinations please complete the online consent form indicating this. However, if your child approaches us requesting these vaccinations, we would contact you to have a conversation, to discuss their options. Legally children under the age of 16 can consent to their own treatment if they demonstrate the competence and understanding of the treatment being requested.

**What does consenting to BDCT staff to be able to view my child's Digital Health Record mean?** It enables any BDCT Childrens Services Staff, who provide care for your child, to see the information which has been shared out from the GP and other health organisations records. Access to your child's health record helps our services to make safe clinical decisions on the most appropriate treatment and care.

For further information see: <https://www.bdct.nhs.uk>

## **Information for Parents and Young People**

**On the day of the vaccination** – wear clothes that would allow the nurses to access the top of the arm, such as a short-sleeved shirt/T-shirt. They should have breakfast as usual and ensure that they drink plenty of water throughout the day.

**What to expect afterwards** – following a vaccination a young person may experience fever, body aches, headache, nausea or tiredness. This is an expected immune response which can be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen (never aspirin for under 16's) and always follow the directions on the packet. It is common to get some swelling, redness or tenderness at the injection site. Sometimes a small painless lump develops, but this usually disappears in a few weeks. Any other side effects are unusual and if you are worried about any reaction you can call the NHS 111 service. Please inform us or your GP if your child has any side effects other than those listed above following the vaccination.

**Vaccine Safety** – the vaccines have undergone rigorous safety testing before being licensed for use in the UK. It is a well-established vaccine with a known safety profile and like all other vaccines, unwanted reactions are monitored. Further information can be found on:

HPV vaccine overview - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk))

"The power of science": HPV vaccine proven to dramatically reduce cervical cancer - Cancer Research UK - Cancer news