

Your Growing Healthy Team are here for all children and young people, providing support, encouraging healthy lifestyles and protecting those who are most vulnerable.

December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **HPV Vaccination: Protecting Your Child Against Cancers**

The HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccination is being offered to **all 12 and 13 year old children in Year 8**. Please see below for details about the vaccine and how to give your consent.

#### ***How do I give my consent?***

Please fill in the **accompanying consent form** and return it to school as soon as possible. Please ensure it is completed with a black pen in **BLOCK CAPITALS**.

#### ***Why is this vaccine being offered?***

The HPV vaccine helps to protect against:

- Head and Neck cancers
- Cervical cancer
- Anal and Penile cancers
- Genital Warts

The HPV vaccination requires **two doses** to be given at least six months apart. The **first dose** will be given in the **Autumn Term 2019** and the **second dose** in the **Summer Term 2020**.

#### ***Is the HPV vaccine just for girls?***

Historically this vaccine has only been offered to girls as HPV is the main cause of **cervical cancer**. However, due to increasing rates of **head and neck cancers** in adulthood linked to HPV infection, the programme is **now being offered to boys as well**. Early vaccination gives us the opportunity to help prevent the spread of a very serious disease that affects over 3,000 adults every year in the UK and causes over 1,000 deaths.

#### ***Where can I find out more?***

For more information about why this vaccine is being offered:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine>

You can read the patient information leaflet for the HPV vaccine (Gardasil) here:

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.261.pdf>



We hope that the information provided addresses any concerns you or your child might have about the vaccination. By having the HPV vaccine they will be helping to protect themselves and others from very serious diseases later in life. It is important that this letter is shared with your child.

If you have any questions regarding this programme, or you believe your child's vaccination status is not up to date (**including MMR**), please contact the **Childhood Immunisation Team** by ringing **01423 542360** or emailing [childhood.immunisations@hdfnhs.uk](mailto:childhood.immunisations@hdfnhs.uk).

Please note that if you do not wish for your child to have this vaccine in school, you should still complete the form to formally register your non-consent.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lois Alderson'.

**Lois Alderson**  
**Clinical Lead for Childhood Immunisations for North Yorkshire and City of York**

