

28 February 2022

Dear Headteacher,

Now more than ever, it is important that we keep vaccination against preventable diseases in the forefront of the public consciousness, and that we don't forget how enormously important school aged vaccinations are. We cannot afford to lose the gains that we have made in reducing cervical cancer rates through the HPV vaccination programme, or keeping potentially fatal diseases such as meningitis at bay.

For that reason, Vaccination UK are redoubling our efforts to vaccinate as many pupils as possible when we come to visit your school. This means that we have changed the way that sessions operate, and we know from our work in other areas that this system is effective and helps boost the overall vaccination rates of pupils.

We will kindly request from your school the contact details for parents of pupils who have not completed a consent form by the cut-off date, in order that we can attempt to contact them prior to the vaccination session to get their consent (or refusal). This will make our sessions run smoother on the day and hopefully make it easier for your staff, too.

We will also now require that **all** pupils are brought to the session on the day, not just the ones that have completed a consent form. For those pupils who still do not have consent in place, we will again attempt to contact parents on the day to obtain consent at that point. Where this fails, and where a pupil is deemed competent by our nursing team they will be assessed for capability to provide self-consent. This process has always been part of the school aged immunisation service, and whilst there have been exceptions to this during the Covid immunisation programme for that specific vaccine, the use of Gillick competency assessment will resume as per previous practice. This practice is completely supported by our NHSE Commissioners, and a strict process is followed to ensure that pupils are assessed carefully. A pupil will not be vaccinated using self-consent if there is any question of their competency to do so.

We understand that this may present a change to the way that we have previously worked with you, but in order to ensure that we vaccinate as many pupils as possible with these lifesaving vaccines, we would really appreciate your assistance with this.

Your ongoing cooperation is very much appreciated.

Yours Faithfully,



Amanda Schiller
Clinical Director
Vaccination UK