



01 December 2022

W: [Berkshire School-Aged Immunisation Team | Children Young People and Families Online Resource \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](https://berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Outstanding School Leaver Boosters**

By now your child **should have** received their school leaver boosters. These are usually offered in year 9 and consist of two vaccinations, (one injection given in each arm). All young people should have already received four doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and polio. The first three doses are given as a baby and the fourth dose between three and five years old. The dose then offered in year 9 is classed as a booster dose, as it boosts their bodies immune response to continue to fight off these diseases. The meningitis vaccine protects against 4 strains of the meningococcal virus that have been found to be more prominent in young people at school leaver age.

These vaccines protect young people against serious and potentially life-threatening diseases:

- **Tetanus** is a serious disease which affects the central nervous system that is caused by bacteria found in soil. The disease is spread through open cuts and wounds.
- **Diphtheria** is highly contagious and potentially fatal bacterial infections that can affect the nose, throat and sometimes the skin.
- **Polio** is a serious viral infection that used to be common in the UK and worldwide. It's rare nowadays because it can be prevented with vaccination.
- **Meningococcal A, C, W and Y** disease that cause meningitis and blood poisoning (septicaemia) which can be fatal.

### **Unsure whether your child has received these vaccines?**

If you are unsure whether your child has received these vaccines, please contact either your GP or the Child Health Information Service (CHIS) **0300 561 1851**.

***Please note, the school-aged immunisation team is unable to provide this information to you.***

### **My child hasn't had these vaccines, what do I do?**

We will be visiting your child's school (**Maiden Erlegh Reading**) on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. Please complete the electronic consent form (one for each child) via [Vaccination Consent \(berkshireimmunisations.co.uk\)](https://berkshireimmunisations.co.uk) and insert your schools unique code: **BK141886** This form should be

submitted by 9am 24 working hours before your session to ensure your child receives their vaccinations. If you experience any problems accessing the form, please telephone 0300 365 0077 and the team will be happy to help you. If you decide you do not want to vaccinate your child, please select no consent, giving the reason. This will help us plan and improve the service.

For further information about these diseases and the vaccines that protect against them please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immunisations-for-young-people>

**\*Is your child up to date with their routine childhood vaccinations?** Vaccination saves lives and is the most important thing we can do to protect ourselves and our children against ill health. Please contact us using the details above if your child is outstanding any vaccinations.

Thank you in advance.

Kind Regards,

**The Berkshire School Aged Immunisation Team**

