Salford City Council

Secondary school immunisations

Why do children in secondary schools need vaccinating?

When a high percentage of the population is vaccinated, it is difficult for infectious diseases to spread, because there are not many people who can be infected. This is called 'herd immunity' and it gives protection to vulnerable people such as newborn babies, elderly people and those who are too sick to be vaccinated.

Herd immunity only works if most people in the population are vaccinated. Even with relatively high vaccination rates in England as a whole, this hides the fact that rates are much lower in some parts of the country and in some communities. If a young person lives in an area where vaccine coverage is low and they are not vaccinated, it's quite likely that many of the people they come into contact with will not be vaccinated either. If one of these people gets an infectious disease like measles, they can easily pass it on to the other unvaccinated people around them, and in some cases the disease can then spread very quickly through the population

Immunisation	Age (Boys and girls)	Location
HPV	12-13	Upper Arm
MENaCWY	14 (year 9)	Upper Arm
3 in 1 Teenage Booster	Year 9	Upper Arm
MMR (catch-up offered to those that have not had 2 doses)	14 (year 9)	Upper Arm
Flu	All years	Upper Arm

The HPV vaccine is offered to boys and girls in Year 8 to protect against genital warts and HPV-related cancers such as cervical cancer, other genital cancers and cancers of the head and neck. Only one dose of HPV vaccine is now required to protect against HPV infection in this age group (unless individuals have specific health reasons, such as a severely weakened immune system, which may mean they require 3 doses).

The MenACWY vaccine is offered to young people in Year 9 and protects against meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal column) and septicaemia (blood poisoning) caused by meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y.

The 3 in 1 teenage booster is offered to young people in Year 9 and boosts protection against tetanus, diphtheria and polio. This is the final dose in a course of routine vaccines against these diseases and protects the young person into adulthood.

Benefits to schools

• vaccines help provide a healthy environment through the reduction of vaccine preventable diseases in schools and in the wider community, including amongst the children's immediate and extended family

• vaccines reduce the likelihood of outbreaks in schools

• vaccines protect children which in turn reduces pupil and staff absenteeism rates

FAQ's

Why do we need immunisation?

The national immunisation programme has meant that dangerous diseases, such as polio, have disappeared in the UK. But these diseases could come back – they are still around in many countries throughout the world. That's why it's so important for you to protect yourself. In the UK, diseases are kept at bay by the high immunisation rates.

How do vaccines work?

A vaccine contains a small part of the bacterium or virus that causes a disease, or tiny amounts of the chemicals the bacterium produces. Vaccines work by causing the body's immune system to make antibodies (substances to fight infections and diseases). So if you come into contact with the infection, the antibodies will recognise it and protect you.

I've heard you get a sore, swollen arm for a long time after the vaccination. Is that true?

The soreness and swelling you may get in your arm can last for a few hours, to a couple of days.

I missed my vaccination, can I still have it?

Yes. If you missed any of your vaccinations, for whatever reason, you should speak to your nurse or doctor about making another appointment. It's best to make your appointment as soon as possible after your original one. The most important thing is to have all three doses – it's never too late to catch up.

Conversation starters:

Have you ever thought about how vaccines work?

What do you know about the vaccines people your age should get?

Why do you think some people choose to get vaccinated and others don't?

How do you feel about needles?

Ever wondered why we vaccinate in schools at your age rather than the GP practice?

Have you seen any cool myths online about vaccination? Lets fact check them together

What would you do if you had the chance to prevent a future pandemic

Lesson Plans:

Comparison to everyday items that protect such as a seatbelt in a car and raincoat to keep you dry

Encourage group discussions

Resources:

Home (e-bug.eu)

University of Bristol: EDUCATE (pshe-association.org.uk)