

January 2016

Immunisation Team
Unit 2
Horton Park Centre
99 Horton Park Avenue
Bradford BD7 3EG

www.bdct.nhs.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Meningococcal ACWY – Year 11 Pupils

Meningococcal disease is a rare but life-threatening disease caused by the meningococcal bacteria which are divided into several groups. The most common are A, B, C, W and Y. Infants, teenagers and young adults have the highest risk of meningococcal disease.

Since 2009 there has been a year on year increase in the number of cases of meningococcal W (Men W) disease and there are no signs of the numbers declining. Older teenagers and young adults are more at risk of getting meningitis and septicaemia from Men W.

The ACWY booster for protection against Meningococcal bacteria is now recommended for teenagers in addition to those doses previously received as a baby. This has been added to the Teenage Immunisation Schedule and will be offered this year for the first time to year 9 and year 11 pupils.

This will extend protection for your child against Meningococcal strains ACWY into early adulthood. As your child is in year 11, he/she is now being offered the Men ACWY vaccine in school.

If your child received the meningitis C vaccine (Men C) in year 9 or 10 he/she **will still** require the Men ACWY vaccine as Men C will only protect against Men C and not provide protection against Men W and the other Meningococcal groups.

Please find attached a consent form and information leaflet, regarding the forthcoming year 11 ACWY campaign in school.

We would like to inform you that the date for the immunisation session in school will take place on 23rd February 2016, and to remind you to return the completed consent form to school as soon as possible in the attached envelope.

Please note that if we do not have a completed consent form for your Child, then we will be unable to administer the vaccination. If you do not wish your child to have this vaccination, please mark the form as required and we will stop any further communication with regard to this.

In order to facilitate easy access to the upper arm, it would be helpful if your child wore a sleeveless top under their usual uniform on the day of the immunisation.

Any Queries please contact the Immunisation Team on 01274 221203.