

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

Dear Parent/Carer,

Protecting Your Children Against Severe Diseases

Your child is being offered two vaccines in Year 9. These are the MenACWY vaccine which helps to protect against **Meningitis** and **Septicaemia**, and the DTP booster which helps to protect against **Diphtheria**, **Tetanus** and **Polio**. Please see below for details about the vaccine and how to give your consent.

How do I give my consent?

To fill in the **online consent form** for your child to receive the **MenACWY and DTP vaccinations** please go to the **website given below**. This will take you to the Childhood Immunisation Service for North Yorkshire and City of York. Please click on **consent forms** and enter your school's **unique code** (see below) and **click "Next"** to begin filling out your child's information. Please ensure you select **YEAR 9 MenACWY (Meningitis) & Diphtheria Tetanus and Polio** when telling us which programme you are consenting for.

www.hdft.nhs.uk/immsconsent

SCHOOL CODE: GC7L6

Please note this form can generally be completed on smart phones and tablets, but if you are experiencing difficulties we recommend trying a laptop or desktop computer before getting in touch with our team for further assistance.

Why is the MenACWY vaccine being offered?

The **MenACWY vaccination** helps to protect your child against four types of meningococcal bacteria (groups A, C, W and Y) that can cause **meningitis** (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and **septicaemia** (blood poisoning). These diseases are very serious and can **kill**, especially if not diagnosed early. Cases of meningococcal W disease ("MenW") in England have **increased significantly** in recent years, and it is in response to this rise in cases that this vaccine was introduced. Last year in North Yorkshire most children in school year 9 had the vaccine.

Why is the DTP booster vaccine being offered?

The **3-in-1 DTP booster vaccine** helps protect your child against three severe diseases; **diphtheria**, **tetanus** and **polio**.

Diphtheria is a serious disease that can **damage the heart and nervous system**, and in severe cases, it can **kill**.

Tetanus is a painful disease affecting the nervous system which can lead to **muscle spasms**, **breathing problems** and can **kill**.

Polio is a virus that attacks the nervous system which can cause **permanent paralysis of muscles**. If it affects the chest muscles or the brain, polio can **kill**. Last year in North Yorkshire most children had this vaccine in school.

Where can I find out more?

We hope that the information provided addresses any concerns you or your child might have about these vaccinations. By having these vaccines your child will be protecting themselves and others from very serious diseases later in life. It is important that this letter is shared with your child.

For **more information** regarding the MenACWY vaccination please visit this website:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/men-acwy-vaccine

For **more information** regarding the DTP booster vaccination please visit this website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/3-in-1-teenage-booster>

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@hdft.nhs.uk.

Yours sincerely,



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