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20 June 2019

Introduction of a universal HPV immunisation programme

Dear Colleague

This letter provides information on the forthcoming expansion of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme into a universal programme. The vaccine will be offered to boys, in addition to girls, as part of the routine school aged¹ schedule in England from 1 September 2019. This follows the government's announcement in July 2018 to include HPV vaccination of boys, which was based on the advice of the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

¹ This will primarily be delivered as a school-based programme, but includes those eligible individuals who may be home-schooled, or those outside of mainstream schooling.

This letter is aimed at health professionals who will be responsible for implementing the new programme. We encourage you to share this guidance with all those who will be involved in helping to deliver the universal programme in your area.

Key points about the changes to the programme

- The same vaccine that is currently used for the girls' programme (Gardasil®, (which protects against HPV types 6,11,16,18)) will be used for universal programme.
- Gardasil® should be offered routinely to all individuals in school year 8 (age 12 and 13 years) born from 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007, through the school aged programme.
- For practical reasons, any individual who is eligible to be in school year 8², (regardless of their date of birth), should be offered HPV immunisation.
- A second dose should be offered either within the same school year (separated by a minimum of 6 months), or in the following year.
- A catch-up programme for boys will not be offered.
- Those eligible for the routine programme offered in school remain so until their 25th birthday.

Additional information

- A revised information leaflet will be available on the PHE Immunisation webpage from June 2019.
- A revised factsheet for health professionals will be available on the PHE Immunisation webpage from June 2019.
- Further detailed clinical guidance for healthcare professionals is set out in **Annex A**.
- Details on ImmForm vaccine coverage data collection and the school aged data collection tool are set out in **Annex B1 and B2** respectively.
- The HPV chapter of the Green Book (Immunisation against infectious disease) is in the process of being finalised. Publication is due imminently and will be made available here: [Human papillomavirus chapter of the Green Book](#)
- The JCVI statement about HPV vaccination and expansion to boys is available at: [JCVI statement: extending the HPV vaccination programme – conclusions](#)
- An updated patient group direction template from Public Health England for the administration of human papillomavirus vaccine ([PHE HPV PGD](#)) is available for NHS England areas to adopt and authorise for their commissioned services.

² This includes any individual who is eligible to be in, or is in school year 8.

From NHS England and Public Health England

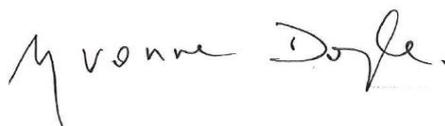
We do not underestimate the additional work the introduction of the universal HPV programme will bring, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved for their continuing hard work in delivering immunisation programmes to school-aged young people.

If you have any queries about the content of this letter please contact immunisation@phe.gov.uk

Yours faithfully



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Improvement, Deputy Chief
Executive



Professor Yvonne Doyle
Public Health England,
Director for Health Protection and
Medical Director

Annex A - Clinical guidance on immunisation of school-year 8 boys against human papillomavirus infection

1. This guidance is based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)³, the UK's independent advisory committee of immunisation experts. Full guidance will be available in the updated chapter on human papillomavirus included in 'the Green Book' (Immunisation against infectious disease)⁴.

Timing

2. The vaccine will be offered to boys, in addition to girls, in school year 8 (12 – 13 year olds) as part of the school-aged immunisation programme from 1 September 2019. The vaccine will be available to order through the ImmForm website⁵ from the beginning of August 2019.
 - The first dose can be given at any time during the year.
 - The **minimum** time between the first and second dose should be six months (where the priming dose is received at less than 15 years of age).
 - The **maximum** time between the first and second dose is 24 months.
 - For operational purposes PHE recommends around a 12-month gap between the two doses which would reduce the number of HPV vaccination sessions. However, local needs should be considered when planning the programme.
 - If the first dose is given before the age of 15 years the two-dose schedule can be followed. If the course is interrupted, it should be resumed but not repeated, even if more than 24 months have elapsed since the first dose.
 - Individuals in eligible cohorts who have not had their first dose of HPV vaccine by the time they are 15 years old should be offered a three-dose schedule. This is because the antibody response in older individuals is not quite as good. The three doses should be offered on a 0, 1 and 4 - 6 month schedule.

³ JCVI statement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-statement-extending-the-hpv-vaccination-programme-conclusions>

⁴ Green Book chapter: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-papillomavirus-hpv-the-green-book-chapter-18a>

⁵ ImmForm website: <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/Logon.aspx?returnurl=%2f>

Patient Group Directions

- An updated patient group direction (PGD) template from Public Health England for the administration of human papillomavirus vaccine ([PHE HPV PGD](#)⁶) is available for NHS England Areas to adopt and authorise for their commissioned services.

Child Health Information Services (CHIS)

- Commissioners should instruct the CHIS that the HPV boys data flows should be activated from the 1 September 2019. For Read, CTV3 and SNOMED codes see below.

Read, CTV3 and SNOMED codes

- The recommended Read, CTV3 and SNOMED codes for recording receipt of HPV vaccine doses in electronic patient records (CHIS/GP) are as follows:

	Read V2	CTV3	SNOMED ConceptID	SNOMED DescriptionID
HPV vaccine 1st dose	65FS	XaNNI	428741008	2693375018
HPV vaccine 2nd dose	65FT	XaNNJ	429396009	2692210014
HPV vaccine 3rd dose	65FV	XaNNK	428931000	2693519018

- NHS England is responsible for the commissioning of CHIS. Individuals will be notified of their eligibility in the programme and contacted with the offer of an appointment.
- The provider must ensure that information on vaccines administered is shared with the relevant general practice so that it can be noted in the patient records.
- General practice must update the patient records.
- The provider must ensure that information on vaccines administered is submitted in a timely manner directly to any relevant population immunisation register, in most areas the CHIS. Where possible this should aim to be within two working days.

⁶ PGD website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-patient-group-direction-pgd>

10. Arrangements will also be required by the CHIS to inform neighbouring areas when individuals resident in their area are immunised outside their local area.

Funding and service arrangements

11. Further details of funding and delivery requirements will be incorporated into the National [service specification](#)⁷. The supporting implementation guidance can be found at this link: www.nhsemployers.org/vandi

Communications and information for parents, young people and health professionals

12. An Integrated Communications Strategy has been produced for the expansion of the HPV vaccine to a universal school-based immunisation programme. The strategy is led by PHE and provides communications colleagues in partner organisations with information and resources to assist with the delivery of the programme. Partners include DHSC, NHS England and national HPV and cancer charities.
13. Patient information flyers, leaflets and posters are being produced for young people and parents, to support the expansion of the vaccine programme. They will be NHS branded and available from the DHSC / PHE Publications [Orderline](#) in June 2019.⁸
14. A document entitled “HPV vaccination: Information for healthcare practitioners” which provides information and answers to commonly asked questions in relation to programme eligibility, scheduling and vaccine administration will be available from June 2019 in the HPV section on the PHE Immunisation webpage.
15. The HPV vaccine information for parents and young people on the NHS website will be updated from June 2019 and will be available [here](#)⁹
16. A training slide set will be made available in the HPV section on the PHE Immunisation webpage from June 2019.¹⁰

⁷ NHS England service specification. <http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/gp-contract/>

⁸ Publications Orderline: https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/home.jsf

⁹ Information for parents and young people: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine>

¹⁰ Training slide set: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hpv-vaccination-programme>

Annex B1 - HPV ImmForm vaccine coverage data collection

ImmForm

1. NHS England Public health commissioning teams are responsible for collecting Local Authority (LA) level HPV vaccine coverage data calculated using the PHE school-level data collection tool (**Annex B2**), other locally developed tools or extracted from the CHIS depending on the local data collection model. These data are manually submitting to PHE using ImmForm (a website used by PHE and NHS England to collect data on vaccine coverage and provide ordering facilities for the NHS). PHE checks the data for completeness, identifies and queries any anomalous results and describes epidemiological trends.
2. In 2019/20, data will be collected on the following:

Denominators:

- Number of boys and girls (separately) in Year 8 eligible for the HPV vaccination within the LA.
- Number of girls in Year 9 eligible for the HPV vaccination within the LA.

Numerators:

- Number of girls and boys (separately) in Year 8 that received (a) first dose and (b) second dose of Gardasil® (HPV vaccine) by the end of the 2019/20 academic year. This figure should include vaccinations administered and given by other healthcare providers.
- Number of girls in Year 9 that received (a) first dose and (b) second dose of Gardasil® (HPV vaccine) at any time up to the end of the 2019/20 academic year. This figure should include vaccinations administered and given by other healthcare providers.

Annex B2 - School aged data collection tool

1. As part of the introduction of the universal HPV immunisation programme, local areas are expected to separate vaccine coverage data for boys and girls in Year 8 commencing in the 2019/20 academic year.
2. Public Health England have developed an optional school-aged data collection tool for the collection of HPV data to help monitor coverage locally throughout the academic year. This tool has been modified from the data collection tool for 2018/19, to allow for the collection of more detailed information on each gender cohort.
3. A user guide has been prepared to provide a comprehensive overview of the tool. The aim of the tool is to enable users to record HPV coverage data by gender for each school as the 2019/20 programme is delivered.
4. Data will automatically be aggregated to the local authority (LA) level. This data can be used to monitor the local programme by gender throughout the academic year and to populate the ImmForm survey in September 2020.
5. The tool will allow the collection of coverage data for a single academic year birth cohort and has the ability to follow these adolescents from Year 8 to Year 9. The 2019/20 collection will follow individuals born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007 in the first year of the universal programme and will monitor coverage for this cohort until the end of the 2020/2021 academic year.
6. Several sections in the tool are automated to reduce the time required to complete the tool. School names, and provisional denominators based on the Department for Education schools, pupils and their characteristics data tables will be updated for all schools with a URN code.
7. The tool will help facilitate standardised data collection across the country, but its use is not mandatory. The tool will be released in July 2019 before the academic year begins.
8. For any further information please contact: adolescent@phe.gov.uk