

March 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian/Young Person in year 13,

Helping to protect against meningococcal disease

As part of our role in protecting young people from disease our immunisation team would like to encourage ALL young adults in year 13 to ensure they have received the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine. The vaccine helps to protect young people against four types of meningococcal bacteria (groups A, C, W and Y) that can cause meningitis (inflammation to 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 the rise in cases that this vaccine has been introduced.

The vaccine was offered early 2017 in all schools to young people in year 11 as a part of the National catch up Programme and almost 80% of the young people in Kingston and Richmond boroughs had the Meningococcal ACWY vaccination at school.

If you/your son/daughter did not receive the vaccination in year 11, we advise you to book an appointment with your GP or practice nurse to receive the vaccination, ideally between finishing exams and going on holidays/travel, university, etc.

There is no charge for the vaccine to this age group.

If you are unsure whether you/your son/daughter has had the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine, please contact the immunisation team:

Kingston School: HRCH.ImmunisationteamKingstonmailbox@nhs.net

Telephone 0203 691 1043

Richmond School: HRCH.Immunisationteammailbox@nhs.net

Telephone 0203 691 1019

Please follow the links below for further information about the vaccination and the Meningococcal disease:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>,

<https://www.meningitisnow.org/meningitis-explained/what-meningitis/meningitis-vaccines/faqs-meningococcal-acwy-vaccine/>

<https://www.meningitis.org/meningitis/vaccine-information>

Yours sincerely,

Heidi Nielsen, immunisation lead, Kingston and Richmond school age immunisations
Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust