



Public Health
England

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

NHS
England

Public Health
South (South Central)
NHS England
Bewley House
Marshfield Road
Chippenham
SN15 1JW

27th June 2017

Dear Headteacher,

Re: Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination (MenACWY)

All pupils / students completing School Year 13 this year (teenagers born between 01/09/1998-31/08/1999) are now eligible for the MenACWY vaccination. These young people will be invited by their GP practice for vaccination over the coming months.

We are writing to request your help in raising awareness of the vaccine prior to the summer break and encouraging students to take up the vaccination when it's offered by their GP.

MenACWY is a vaccine that helps protect against the four main strains of the bacteria that causes meningococcal disease, which can present itself as meningitis (inflammation of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). Meningococcal disease is a serious disease and can kill in hours and those who recover may be left severely disabled.

Since 2009, there has been a large increase in group W meningococcal (MenW) disease in England, resulting in several deaths in teenagers. Older teenagers and young adults who are not vaccinated are at risk of getting MenW infection, so need to get vaccinated. The vaccine also helps protect others around them. These students may have had a MenC vaccination before, but still require the MenACWY vaccine as this gives the extra protection needed. The vaccination is free and may save their life.

Your current students in the age cohort outlined should take up the vaccination when offered – whether going into work or higher education. Those planning to go to university should be vaccinated well before they move. New university students are at extra risk of meningococcal infection in the first term when they come into contact with many new people of a similar age.

Finally, we wished to ask if you would also remind your students or their parents/carers of another important vaccine for these young people - if students are not up to date with the MMR vaccine which helps protect against measles, mumps and rubella, they should get this vaccine at the same appointment.

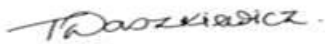
High quality care for all, now and for future generations

More information about both vaccines can be found at the NHS Choices website or through speaking to the nurse or GP at their surgery.

A new leaflet is available to assist you in encouraging vaccination and can be downloaded and printed, using 'product code' MENACWY001, from: https://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk/ecom_dh/public/contact.jsf.

Thank you for your help in protecting young people from these devastating diseases.

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Daszkiewicz

**Director of Public Health (Interim)
Public Health and Public Protection
Wiltshire Council**



Dr Ardiana Gjini

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Screening and Immunisation Lead,
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