

BEST PRACTICE TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL NURSE IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME 2018/19

Immunisation saves lives. The World Health Organization estimates that 3 million lives are saved every year worldwide through immunisation. It is important that all babies and children are fully immunised to protect them from potentially serious diseases. Once common illnesses, such as diphtheria and tetanus, are now rare in the UK because of immunisation. But while polio has been eliminated in Europe, the threat of other diseases, such as measles and meningitis, has not gone away in the UK today.

Across the North Wales an immunisation programme is implemented from birth, which includes school based sessions. The School Nursing Team are very grateful to Denbighshire schools for their support in their delivery of the programme. This factsheet provides best practice in to help ensure the smooth delivery of a school based immunisation session.

What immunisations are given in school?

- ◆ Reception – year 6: flu vaccine nasal spray.
- ◆ Year 8/9 girls: HPV 1 injection in yr 8; another in yr 9.
- ◆ Year 9: 2 injections – combined Tetanus, Low dose Diphtheria and polio; and Meningitis ACWY.

Named school contact to work with the School Nurse:

- ◆ It works well when the School Nurse has a named school contact to liaise with in relation to planning immunisation sessions and collecting paperwork.

What kind of room/resources are required?

- ◆ An immunisation session in school will require a room and tables. The type and size of the room and the amount of tables needed will depend on the size of the cohort of children being vaccinated. School nurses have a “formula” to work out how many staff are needed. Each person who is vaccinating needs a table.
- ◆ There also needs to be an area to monitor children who feel ill or are very nervous at having the vaccine.
- ◆ The School Nurse Team need extra time each side of the immunisation slot to allow them to set up and clear away safely.
- ◆ Access to a hand washing sink is needed.

Who administers the vaccine?

- ◆ Vaccines are administered by the School Nurse, Immunisation Team and occasionally supported by Health Visitors.

How does the school-based immunisation session work?

- ◆ The School Nurse, the Healthcare Support Worker or the Immunisation Team will contact the school to book a mutually convenient date and time.
- ◆ Once a date has been agreed for the immunisation session, it is very difficult for it to be re-scheduled due to the logistics of staff planning.
- ◆ The named school contact will then work with the school nurse to disseminate and collect paperwork.
- ◆ Ideally a member of school staff will be present to help identify the pupils.

What paperwork needs to be done?

- ◆ The School Nurse will provide the named school contact with enough forms for each child.
- ◆ It is helpful for this person to work with the School Nurse to:
 - Distribute and collect forms from each class.
 - Collect/chase forms from parents/carers.

- Ensure that forms are received back from the class teachers and given to the School Nurse Team.
- Send prompts to parents/carers, e.g. by using the school text system to remind parents/carers to return forms or remind them when the session is.
- Inform the School Nurse Team if any children have moved in to or out of the school.
- Inform the School Nurse Team, ideally the week before, roughly how many children to expect.
- *School Nurse Teams will always allow for extra but receiving forms on the morning of the session delays the process as they then need to be checked. In the event of not having enough vaccines at a session staff may have to return to a base to get these.*
- ◆ The immunisation team will deal with the paperwork at the actual immunisation session.
- ◆ Sometimes the Child Health Department in the Health Board will contact the school regarding children e.g. are they still on the school register. School privacy statements permit this.

How the vaccines are stored and delivered to school.

- ◆ The School Nurse teams will know how many vaccines are needed, and will collect from central storage sites. They are kept at the correct temperature by being transported in portable fridges. There are strict guidelines and protocols. The storage of vaccines is monitored daily to ensure they are kept at the correct temperature. If there is any doubt as to the efficacy of the vaccine it will be discarded.

What are the risks if children aren't vaccinated at school?

If parents/carers want their child to be vaccinated to protect against certain diseases it is more straightforward for them to have it done at school. Children will all be ‘in the same boat’ with their peers and it saves parents having to make appointments at a surgery and take time off work.

Parents/carers:

- ◆ Parents/carers do not need to be present for school based immunisation sessions.
- ◆ Parents/carers with queries about any aspect of their child's immunisations should discuss them with their School Nurse, Doctor or Practice Nurse.

For more information:

For further information about immunisation in school please contact your **School Nurse**. For further information about immunisation:

www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/LiveWell/Vaccinations/