

Vaccinations for school-aged children

Immunisations are one of the most effective ways to keep children healthy and safe from serious illnesses like polio and meningitis, and can even help prevent certain types of cancer. By vaccinating your child, you're not only protecting them, you're also helping to protect friends, family, and vulnerable people in your community.

What vaccines are coming up for your child this year?

Children are offered several important vaccines during their school years. Here's what to expect:

Flu vaccine



**School-aged children
(Reception to Year 11)**

Diseases protected against:

The children's flu vaccine is offered every year in autumn or early winter to protect them from flu. Children having the flu vaccine also helps stop them spreading it to others.

HPV vaccine



**Ages 12 to 13 years old
(school Year 8)**

Diseases protected against:

Human Papilloma Virus - a common virus that's spread through skin contact. Some types are linked to an increased risk of certain types of cancer and can cause genital warts.

3-in-1 teenager booster vaccine



**Ages 13 to 14 years old
(school Year 9)**

Diseases protected against:

Tetanus - a serious, life-threatening condition caused by bacteria getting into a wound.

Diphtheria - a highly contagious infection that affects the nose, throat, and sometimes the skin.

Polio - a serious infection caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person.

MMR status should also be checked before university / college.

MenACWY vaccine



**Ages 13 to 14 years old
(school Year 9)***

Diseases protected against:

The 4 types of bacteria that can cause meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning).

*A catch up may be offered up to age 16 (school Year 11) if the Year 9 dose is missed.

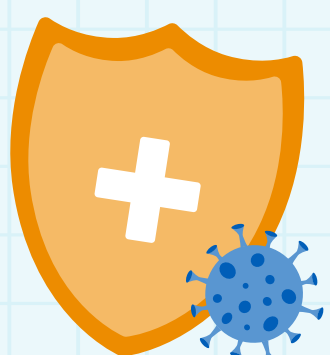
Please note this is the case for all adolescent vaccines. After year 11, they are still able to receive these vaccines at the GP surgery.

Children with some health conditions may be offered a COVID-19 booster in spring and winter. Check your child's eligibility at www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine.

Why it matters

Vaccination rates are falling, and preventable illnesses like measles are on the rise again. It is vital that children get vaccinated to protect them from illness.

- Vaccinations are safe and effective.
- Diseases spread quickly as children head back to school and mix with others.
- Unvaccinated children can get seriously ill, even if they are otherwise fit and healthy.



What do I need to do?

Before your child's vaccination, you will receive a letter via email from your child's school, asking for permission for them to receive a vaccination offered at school.

It is important that you consider the information in the letter carefully and, if you have any questions, speak to the School Aged Immunisation Service via the helpline for advice and support. Call **0300 124 0366** or email school.immunisation@mpft.nhs.uk. The letter asks parents/carers to complete an online consent form. Once submitted, you don't have to do anything else. Your child will receive their vaccination when it is offered at school.

If your child has missed childhood immunisations, like MMR, that are usually given to babies and young children, contact our School Aged Immunisation Service about getting them fully vaccinated.



Need more information?

- Visit [Vaccinations for school-age children - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care System](#)
- Visit www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/school-age-immunisation-service for more information about consent and accessing vaccination clinics. Alternative languages are available.
- Visit www.nhs.uk/vaccinations