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Dear Parent/Guardian

Beating Cervical Cancer

The HPV vaccine is routinely offered to all 12 and 13 year old girls in school year 8.

This vaccine protects against cervical cancer and its being offered to your daughter when she starts her second year at secondary school. You may have heard about it on the radio, or seen advertisements on the television or in the newspapers. By having this vaccination, your daughter will be protected against the commonest cause of cervical cancer for many years to come.

With this letter is a consent form and a leaflet about the vaccination. If you would like more details, you can order or download a Q & A information sheet that should answer any questions you might have once you have read the leaflet. This is available on 'NHS Patient Choices': <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hpv-vaccination/pages/introduction.aspx> where you can also find a scientific factsheet on the virus, the disease and the vaccine, as well as links to other useful websites. You can also talk to the school nurse, your GP or practice nurse.

Attached to this letter, there is some basic introductory information about the virus and the vaccination, which we hope you find useful. This is the first time a vaccination programme against cervical cancer has been provided in this country, so we now have the opportunity of helping to prevent the spread of a very serious disease that affects over 3000 women every year in the UK and causes over 1000 deaths.

We hope that the information provided addresses any concerns you or your daughter might have about the vaccination and that you will both feel confident that by having the HPV vaccine she will be protecting herself and others from a very serious disease later in life.

Yours sincerely



Pauline Morris
Vaccinations & Immunisations Lead Nurse

***Liverpool Community Health is a Teaching Trust - At times there may be students present during appointments, if you do now wish to have a student present please inform us of this.**

If you require this information in this language, please tick the box

إذا لديك الرغبة في الحصول على هذه المعلومات بهذه اللغة، أرجو ان تضع علامة على الصندوق.	<input type="checkbox"/> (Arabic)
如果您需要這些資料的中文譯本，請在空格內劃✓。	<input type="checkbox"/> (Chinese – Traditional)
Požadujete-li tuto informaci v tomto jazyce, zaškrtněte prosím okénko.	<input type="checkbox"/> (Czech)
چنانچه این اطلاعات را به زبان فارسی نیاز دارید لطفاً مربع زیر را علامت بزنید.	<input type="checkbox"/> (Farsi)
Jeśli niniejsza informacja jest wymagana w tym języku, prosimy postawić haczyk.	<input type="checkbox"/> (Polish)
ئەتەر ئۆم زانیاریەت بۆ ئۆز زامانە دەوایەت ئۆز تەكایە نیشانەى / لۆ ضوارطووشە بۆ.	<input type="checkbox"/> (Kurdish)
Haddii aad u baahan tahay wargelintan oo luqadan ah, fadlan sax sanduuqa.	<input type="checkbox"/> (Somali)

Beating Cervical Cancer – the new HPV Vaccine

What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer affects the cervix (the entrance to the womb). It is caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV), which is spread from one person to another during sexual activity. There are over 100 types of HPV but only thirteen of these cause cervical cancer and just two – types 16 and 18 – cause over 70% of the cases.

What is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine stops the human papilloma virus from developing in the body and so prevents cervical cancer (in 70% of the cases).

Why does my daughter have to have the vaccine at 12 or 13 years of age?

The virus that causes cervical cancer is spread by someone having sex, or being sexually intimate with another person who has the virus. Both men and women can become infected with the virus. Whilst most girls don't start having sex until they are 16 or quite a bit older, it has been shown that the vaccine provides the best protection if it is given at 12 to 13 years of age. Because the virus is so common, and the vaccine won't work against the cancer-causing types 16 and 18 if they are already in the body, postponing the vaccination until after sexual activity has started would mean that a young woman may not be protected and could therefore become infected with the cancer-causing virus.

How will I know when my daughter is going to have the vaccination?

You will be sent information and a consent form when the vaccination is going to be given at school. It is important that the consent form is signed and returned to the school before your daughter's vaccination is due. To get the best protection, she will need three injections over a period of six months.

What if she doesn't want to have the vaccination?

She doesn't have to have it, if she doesn't want to. But it is recommended that she does have it for the reasons given above. Having the vaccination now will protect her for many years. Suggest she speaks to the nurse or doctor if she wants more information, on her own, or with you if she'd prefer.

What if she wants the vaccination but, as her parents, we'd rather she didn't have it?

You should discuss this with your doctor or nurse to get more advice. The decision is legally hers as long as she understands the issues in giving consent but the nurse would much rather have your permission as well. It is important for your daughter's future to appreciate that having the vaccination now will protect her from the most common cause of cervical cancer for many years to come.

Please return the consent form and write on it if you/your child have decided not to have the vaccination at this time. We will continue to target all children until they are fully immunised via txt, phone, letter and through school/city clinics and opportunistic home immunisation.