

**Greenwich Immunisation Team**

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Dear parent or carer,

**Your year 9 child's teenage vaccinations are now due.**

This includes two single injections:

- The 3-in-1 teenage booster (Td/IPV)
- Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)

Along with these vaccines, your child can receive the following vaccination, if they are missing one or both doses:

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine (MMR)

The 3-in-1 teenage booster protects against diphtheria, tetanus, and polio. It boosts the protection that your child should have received in their 6-in-1 vaccine (aged 8, 12, and 16 weeks) and the pre-school booster (aged 3 years 4 months).

The Meningococcal ACWY vaccine provides protection against four strains of bacterial meningitis. Proof of this immunisation is often required by colleges, universities, and other higher educational facilities before enrolling.

Your child should have received two doses of the MMR vaccine (at aged 1 and 3 years 4 months). This will be recorded on their GP record, or in their Red Book. If you believe your child is missing one, or both doses, they can catch-up alongside their other teenage vaccinations.

If you would like further information on these vaccinations, please visit the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations). Alternatively, leaflets can be collected from your child's school.

Please discuss these vaccines with your child, and use the link provided to access and complete the electronic consent form:

<https://cypcis.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/dtp/2025/greenwich>

**The Greenwich Immunisation Team will visit your child's school on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Please ensure you complete the consent form, even if you choose not to vaccinate your child this year. NHS England requires that we provide numbers of parents that do not consent to their child being vaccinated. If you do not complete your consent form, you may be contacted by phone, text, or letter, to offer your child future opportunities to receive a vaccination. If you return a 'no' consent, we will not make any further contact this year. For more information on this, [please see our privacy notice](#).

### **Gillick competency**

In the absence of a signed consent form from parents, we will invite young people to self-consent, providing they can demonstrate:

- an understanding of the vaccinations due;
- the benefits of vaccination compared to being unvaccinated;
- the potential side effects of vaccination.

This is done on a case-by-case basis – ultimately, the decision to consent is the young person's choice. This is in line with the Gillick Guideline Competence. You can learn more about being Gillick competent on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/tests-and-treatments/consent-to-treatment/children/>

We have included some frequently asked questions about the 3-in-1 teenage booster, MenACWY vaccine and the MMR vaccine below.

If you have any queries, please contact your Immunisation team:

- Tel: 0203 9033345
- [HRCH.Greenwichimms@nhs.net](mailto:HRCH.Greenwichimms@nhs.net)

Yours sincerely,

**Greenwich Immunisation Team**

# 3-in-1 teenage booster and Meningococcal ACWY vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

## Are there any side effects?

Possible side effects include:

- swelling or pain at the injection site
- a headache
- feeling or being sick
- a raised temperature

More serious side effects, such as a severe allergic reaction are very rare. The person who vaccinates you will be trained to deal with allergic reactions and treat them immediately.

## Can I consent for my own vaccines?

Wherever possible, we always try to receive consent from a parent or guardian before administering a vaccine.

Young people under 16 years old can consent to their own treatment if they are deemed to understand the risks and benefits of receiving it. This is known as being Gillick competent. Each young person is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## Is it safe to have the vaccines at the same time?

It is safe to give both vaccines at the same time. The nurse will give each vaccine in a different arm.

## What if I miss my vaccine at school?

Our Immunisation teams run catch-up clinics after school, at the weekends, and during the school holidays. Head to our website to see all the details of our clinics:

[www.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/services/service-search-z/immunisations-childrens](http://www.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/services/service-search-z/immunisations-childrens)

## Do these vaccines contain porcine gelatine?

No - both vaccines are gelatine free, and can be given to those who avoid gelatine for personal reasons.

# The MMR vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

## Are there any side effects?

Possible side effects include:

- swelling or pain at the injection site
- feeling or being sick
- a raised temperature
- swollen glands, a measles-like rash

More serious side effects, such as a severe allergic reaction are very rare. There is no evidence that the MMR vaccine causes autism.

## When should I have received the MMR vaccine?

According to the NHS Immunisation schedule, children are first offered the MMR vaccine at:

- 1 year old
- 3 year and 4 months old

However, you can catch-up with your missed vaccines at any time. You need two doses to be fully protected.

## Why do I need the MMR vaccine?

Measles cases are on the rise in London. Measles is a very serious illness - the best way to protect yourself is to have two doses of the MMR vaccine.

## Can I consent for my own vaccines?

Wherever possible, we always try to receive consent from a parent or guardian before administering a vaccine.

Young people under 16 years old can consent to their own treatment if they are deemed to understand the risks and benefits of receiving it. This is known as being Gillick competent. Each young person is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## Does the vaccine contain gelatine?

There are two MMR vaccines: MMRVaxPro and Priorix. The MMRVaxPro vaccine contains a small amount of porcine gelatine.

If you do not consume gelatine, speak to your immunisation nurse. They will ensure you receive the Priorix vaccine, which is porcine gelatine free.