

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to ask for your support in helping us protect more teenagers in Barking & Dagenham against Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Meningitis.

This year the current uptake of these immunisations is lower than it has been in previous years. Low levels of immunisation put children and young people at risk of getting these serious diseases – however it is not too late to change this.

As part of the [national immunisation programme](#), teenagers in Year 9 are required to get the 3-in-1 booster and the Meningitis ACWY vaccines in addition to the HPV vaccine in Year 8. These vaccines have been used for decades as an effective way of protecting teenagers against a whole range of dangerous diseases such as Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio, Meningitis and several types of cancer.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain which causes long-term problems and can be fatal. Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio are three separate diseases which can cause problems such as difficulty breathing and swallowing, muscle spasms and a high temperature. Not getting the vaccine could lead to your child becoming very unwell. You can read more about both vaccines and the diseases they protect against below:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/men-acwy-vaccine/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/3-in-1-teenage-booster/>

Parental consent

To support us in protecting more teenagers against these serious diseases, we ask that parents or carers who haven't yet completed the online consent form do so by visiting <https://london.schoolvaccination.uk/dtp/2021/barkinganddagenham>. It is important to do this even if you choose not to consent to your teenagers' vaccination. Please note, if you choose not to complete consent, this does not mean that you have refused the vaccine. You must complete a consent whether you wish for your child to have it or not.

If you require a paper consent form, please contact The Barking & Dagenham Team at Vaccination UK who will be able to provide this. Their contact details are included at the end of this letter.

With your support, we can ensure that our children and young people are kept safe from these diseases.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact The Barking & Dagenham Team at Vaccination UK who are responsible for the immunisation programme in secondary schools across the borough. You can contact them by email Barkinganddagenham@v-uk.co.uk by phone 0203 432 6143.



Kind regards,
Amanda Schiller
Clinical Director, Vaccination UK