

Sutton & Merton School Age Immunisation Team
The Lodge
Wilson Hospital
Cranmer Road
Mitcham
CR4 4TP

January 2017

Year 11 Meningococcal Immunisation 2016/17

Dear Parent or Guardian

The meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine has replaced the routine Meningococcal C (MenC) vaccine programme for all children in secondary school.

MenACWY vaccination helps to protect your child against four types of meningococcal bacteria (groups A, C, W and Y) that can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). These diseases are very serious and can kill, especially if not diagnosed early. Cases of meningococcal W disease ("MenW") in England have increased significantly in recent years, and it is in response to this rise in cases that this vaccine is being introduced.

During the academic year (2016/17), children started receiving the vaccine routinely in school year 9. A catch up campaign has been introduced for all children in year 11 to ensure that this age group are vaccinated and protected before they leave secondary education.

We will be offering this vaccination in clinics across the boroughs of Sutton and Merton throughout the rest of this academic year. The information will be circulated before the Easter break advising of dates and venues.

If you would like further information please visit
<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>
where you will find information about the disease and vaccine.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Collins

Sutton & Merton School Age Immunisations Team Lead/Nurse