

To: Parent/Carer

1 Town Square
Barking
IG11 7LU

Date: 29th March 2022

Dear Parent or Carer,

Letter to Parents from Matthew Cole, Director of Public Health, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

I am writing to you to ask for your support in helping us protect more teenagers in Barking and 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.

If you require a paper consent form, please contact Holly Westfallen at Vaccination UK who will be able to provide this. Her contact details are included at the end of this letter.

It's not too late for your child to get vaccinated

If your child hasn't already received these immunisations, it's not too late for them to do so. Please complete the online consent form or contact Vaccination UK if you require a paper

consent form. Vaccination UK will either arrange a date to go back into your child's school or alternatively you can attend one of the drop-in clinics taking place across the borough.

The details of these clinics are below:

Venue: Fanshawe Community Centre. Address: Barnmead Road Dagenham, RM9 5DX

- Wednesday 6th April 2022: 10:00 – 14:00
- Tuesday 3rd May 2022: 15:00 – 17:30
- Wednesday 1st June: 10:00 – 14:00

Venue: Barking Library. Address: 2 Town Square, Barking IG11 7NB

- Monday 11th April 2022: 10.00 – 14:00
- Tuesday 24th May 2022: 15:00 – 17:00

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 Holly Westfallen at Vaccination UK who is responsible for the immunisation programme in secondary schools across the borough. You can contact Holly by email (Barkinganddagenham@v-uk.co.uk) or by phone (0203 432 6143).

Yours sincerely,



Director of Public Health