

Greenwich Immunisation Team

Phone 0203 9033345

Email HRCH.Greenwichimms@nhs.net

March 2026

Dear parent or carer,

Your year 8 student's HPV vaccination is now due.

This includes one single injection:

- The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

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

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine (MMR)

The HPV vaccine provides lifelong protection against a range of cancers caused by the human papillomavirus. These cancers include cervical cancer, head and neck cancers, anal cancer, penile cancer, and genital warts. If you would like further information on the HPV vaccine, please visit www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/hpv-vaccine/.

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

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

**The Greenwich Immunisation Team will visit your young person's school on
Monday 20th April 2026**

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 vaccination. If you return a 'no' consent, we will not make any further contact this year.

For more information on our consent process, please see our privacy notice:

www.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/services/service-search-z/immunisations-childrens

Young people with special educational needs or disabilities

We understand young people with special educational needs or disabilities may find vaccination sessions particularly stressful. Our immunisation nurses are experienced at supporting young people who have additional needs and may be anxious about vaccinations. We welcome discussions with parents/carers and young people prior to the session date to make the experience less stressful.

We offer all young people the opportunity to receive their vaccinations in an appropriate and comfortable environment. If you feel that vaccination in school is not appropriate, you are welcome to attend a clinic setting in the community. Our teams hold clinics over the school holiday periods, some weekends, and after school sessions. Please contact your local school immunisation team to book a clinic slot.

We have included some frequently asked questions about the HPV vaccine and the MMR vaccine below.

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

- Tel: 0203 9033345
- HRCH.Greenwichimms@nhs.net

Yours sincerely,

Greenwich Immunisation Team

HPV 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 nurse who vaccinates you will be trained to deal with allergic reactions and treat them immediately.

I'm a boy - do I need the vaccine?

Yes - the vaccine is offered to all students. HPV can be spread by anyone. It can cause a range of cancers, and genital warts. Being vaccinated is the best way to give yourself lifelong protection.

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

Does this vaccine contain porcine gelatine?

No - this vaccine is gelatine free, and can be given to anyone who avoids 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 vaccination schedule, children are first offered the MMR vaccine at:

- 1 year old
- 18 months old

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

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.

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.