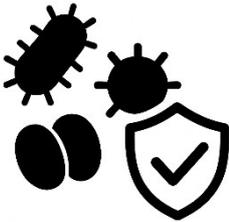
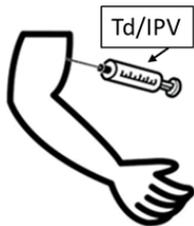


Tetanus, diphtheria, polio and meningitis immunisations for children



This easy read document tells you about the tetanus, diphtheria and polio, and meningitis immunisations for children.



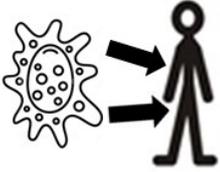
Two vaccinations are given to children in year 9. One is for tetanus, diphtheria and polio. This is a booster for the same vaccination given before your child started school. It is sometimes known as a 'teenage booster'. The other vaccination is to protect against the bacteria that causes meningitis.

Why get the vaccines?

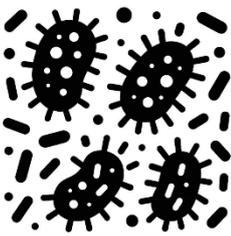


The immunisations help protect your child from getting 4 serious health conditions:

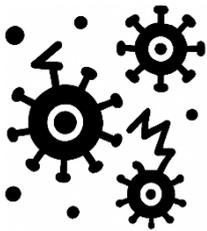
tetanus, diphtheria, polio and meningitis, which are caused by **bacteria** and **viruses**.



Both **bacteria** and **viruses** can cause infections.



Bacteria are tiny living organisms, and some can cause disease. They can live and multiply by themselves.



Viruses are tiny specs of material that can carry “DNA” of diseases. They are harmless unless they come into contact with living cells.



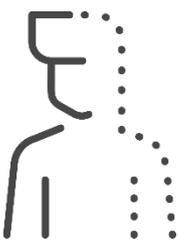
Tetanus is caused by bacteria getting into a wound. A common cause of infection is dirt, soil or manure infecting a bite, burn or scratch or other wound.



Diphtheria is a bacterial infection that spreads very easily through coughs, sneezes or close contact with someone who is infected, including sharing cups, cutlery, clothing or bedding with an infected person.



Polio is caused by a virus that spreads easily through contact with the poo of an infected person. For example, by not washing your hands properly or from infected food or water, and sometimes through coughs or sneezes. In some cases it can cause **paralysis**.



Paralysis means that you cannot use part of your body, like your arms or legs.



Meningitis is an infection of the “meninges” – these are membranes that protect the brain and spinal cord, usually caused by a virus or bacterial infection.



All 4 – tetanus, diphtheria, polio and meningitis – can be very serious illnesses. In severe cases, they can cause death.



The diseases are now rare in the UK because immunisations have been used for a long time.



You are at risk of catching these diseases if you are not immunised.



Tetanus, diphtheria, polio and meningitis can be spread easily.

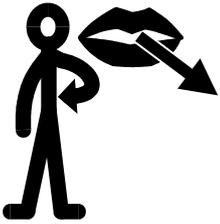


As well as protecting your child, the vaccine also helps to protect family and friends by stopping the spread of the diseases.

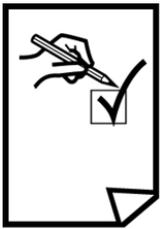


You can [find more information about MMR vaccine on the NHS website.](#)

What you need to do



Speak to your child about being protected from flu and having a vaccine.



Fill out the consent form (1 form for each child) and 1 for each vaccination.



Say whether you do, or do not, want your child to have the vaccine.



Even if you say no, the child has the right to say yes, if a health professional says they have the ability to decide. This is called being **Gillick Competent.**



Return the form to your child's school within 1 week.



If you have any questions or need help to complete the form, contact the School Aged Immunisation Service by:



Phone: 0333 358 3397
(select option 4)



The Nottinghamshire School Aged Immunisation Service is carried out by [Intrahealth](#) for the NHS.

Links in this document

NHS – tetanus, diphtheria and polio vaccine

nhs.uk/vaccinations/td-ipv-vaccine-3-in-1-teenage-booster/

NHS-Meningitis A,C,W and Y vaccine

nhs.uk/vaccinations/menacwy-vaccine/

Intrahealth

intrahealth.co.uk

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