

Be on the TEAM: Teenagers against Meningitis

Evaluating the effect of immunisation with group B meningococcal vaccines on meningococcal carriage

Dear parent/legal guardian,

We are writing to inform you about an important research study taking place at your teenager's school that is looking at the best way of using meningitis vaccines to reduce the risk of this devastating disease. As part of this we will be inviting your teenager to have two doses of a licensed vaccine against meningitis (MenB) for which they would not otherwise be eligible.

This is a national study involving 24,000 year 12 /16-17year old students that has been funded by the Department of Health and is being led by the University of Oxford.

Meningitis is caused by an infection around the surface of the brain. It is rare but can be life-threatening and mostly affects babies, young children and adolescents. An important cause of meningitis is a type of bacteria (or germ) called meningococcus. About 10% of teenagers carry these bacteria at the back of their throat at any one time.

What is the 'Be on the TEAM' study?

- This study will see if immunising teenagers with MenB vaccines reduces the carriage of meningococcus in teenager's throats, which could in turn protect the broader community
- Teenagers who take part will have two throat swabs, 1 year apart, and then be offered 2 doses of a Meningitis B vaccine
- These are licensed vaccines that teenagers would not otherwise receive, and will reduce their risk of meningitis
- There would be three study visits, over 12-18 months
- All visits would be held within participating schools

Who decides if my teenager takes part?

As your teenager is 16 years of age or older they will be able to decide if they want to take part (consent) themselves, and they are provided with the full information booklet describing the study in more detail. This booklet is available at www.publichealthwales.org/beontheteam and www.iechydycyhoedduscymru.org/bodynytim

Where can I find out more information?

The Cardiff study information booklets contain more information (www.publichealthwales.org/beontheteam). If you would like any further information, you can contact the study team on:

Email: Christopher.williams25@wales.nhs.uk

We are grateful for the continued enthusiastic and valued role that Cardiff High School plays in supporting our research.

Many thanks,

The MenB Carriage Team, Public Health Wales, Cardiff