

Dear Parent/Carer

Please check your child is up to date with their routine vaccinations before they start school in September 2020.

Before your child begins school it is important that they are up to date with their vaccinations to protect themselves from several infectious and potentially serious diseases.

Vaccinations are of particular importance in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic as they protect your child from preventable disease and will help to prevent additional pressures on the NHS.

At school, children will be mixing with large numbers of other children in a confined environment, which increases the risk of germs (viruses and bacteria) spreading. Vaccination builds children's immunity to protect against these illnesses. Vaccination also stops these germs from spreading and therefore protects vulnerable children who may not have, or may not be able to develop, immunity.

Before your child starts school please make sure they have had their 'pre-school' routine vaccinations.

These vaccinations include:

- 1. The 4-in-1 vaccine for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio (DTaP/ IPV)**
- 2. The second dose of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR).**

You can check to see if your child is up-to-date with all of their vaccinations by looking at their personal health record (Red Book) or by contacting your **GP surgery**. You may also receive an invitation from the local immunisation team to arrange for your child to receive their missed MMR and/or 4-in-1 vaccine at community clinics.

From Reception onwards, each year, your child will be offered the **childhood nasal flu** immunisation in school; this replaces the flu offer at your GP's. This year, more than ever, it's important to be protected from flu, not only for your child, but for your family and community. In September you will receive information via your school about consenting to this; please look out for this and complete your consent online.

For more information and a checklist of the vaccines available to you and your family, please visit **www.nhs.uk/vaccinations** or contact the immunisation team on **ccs-tr.cambsimmsteam@nhs.net**.

Yours faithfully,

The Public Health & Education Directorates and Immunisation Team