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Dear school,

Please send this letter to all parents of students in years 8-11, regardless of whether we have already visited for the HPV vaccination session this year. We feel it is important for parents to be made aware of the changes to the vaccine used for the HPV programme for those that are yet to be vaccinated but also those we will see for the second dose in the future.

The HPV vaccine that is currently used in the NHS is called Gardasil. This has been used since 2012 to protect young people from the Human Papillomavirus that can lead to different types of cancers. The current vaccination protects against 4 strains of HPV.

We have been informed by NHS England that sometime during the summer of 2022 the HPV vaccine used in the programme will switch from Gardasil to Gardasil 9. This will protect against 9 different strains of HPV. Gardasil 9 can be given for the first and second dose or to complete a course that was previously started with Gardasil. We do not have control over when the switch will happen as it depends on what stock is delivered to us.

More information can be found on the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1059900/UKHSA-HPV-vaccination-for-all-leaflet.pdf

Parents can also contact us directly if they have any questions.

Thank you

School Age Immunisation Team

