

**0-19 Public Health Nursing Service**  
Crookall House  
Demesne Road  
Douglas  
Isle of Man  
IM1 3QA

7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **HPV immunisation programme 2022/2023 – Year 8**

In September 2022, your child was given the opportunity to receive their Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine at school. When you originally consented, this was for a two-dose schedule – the first in September 2022 and the second was originally scheduled for May 2023.

In April 2023, a press release was published on various platforms to advise the public that those who are eligible to receive the HPV vaccination will now only require one dose rather than the previous two doses: <https://www.gov.im/news/2023/apr/28/changes-announced-for-routine-adolescent-hpv-vaccination-programme/>

This decision was taken by the Isle of Man Immunisation Committee, which includes representation from the Isle of Man Public Health Directorate, and was further approved by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). It follows a recent recommendation made by the UK's Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), based on the results of several independent research studies. Both organisations agree that children and young people who have received a single dose before 25 years of age are considered fully vaccinated.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/single-dose-of-hpv-vaccine-jcvi-concluding-advice/jcvi-statement-on-a-one-dose-schedule-for-the-routine-hpv-immunisation-programme>

We have become aware that this communication was not widely received and wished to ensure you were now updated with this information.

Please be reassured that if your child has had one dose of the HPV vaccine, they are now considered fully vaccinated.

If your child has not yet received their dose of HPV vaccine this year, we will be in touch to arrange for this to be given, or you can contact your GP surgery.

Unfortunately, our planned visits on 11 and 12 July for catch-up first doses have now been cancelled, as we are awaiting the approval of the new policy. Every effort was made in preparing this, however there has been an unavoidable delay. We do apologise and thank you for your understanding.

The Isle of Man has been offering the HPV vaccination since 2010 (in the UK since 2008). Worldwide, over 80 million people have received the vaccine and it is expected that this vaccine will save hundreds of lives every year in the UK.

We trust that the information provided addresses any concerns you or your child may have about the vaccination. You should feel confident that by having the HPV vaccine your child will be helping to protect themselves from serious disease later in life.

If you have any questions please email the School Vaccination Team on [HPVVaccinationEnquiries.DHSC@gov.im](mailto:HPVVaccinationEnquiries.DHSC@gov.im).

Yours sincerely

Julie Price  
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