

Kevin Fenton, Director of Health and Wellbeing
Nina Dohel, Director of Education
Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH

Date: 26 July 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Last year there was an outbreak of measles in Southwark.

Southwark Council is working with the NHS and schools to protect children from diseases like measles that are preventable through vaccination.

Why is vaccination important?

Diseases like measles, meningitis and whooping cough can be life changing.

Vaccines give you the power to protect your child from diseases like these. The World Health Organisation states that vaccination is the safest and most effective way to protect your child from infectious diseases. Not getting vaccinated puts your child at risk of catching a range of potentially serious, even fatal, diseases.

What vaccines should my child have had before starting school?

More than 8 out of 10 of children in Southwark receive their free vaccines before going to school each year.

Routine vaccinations are offered **FREE** of charge on the NHS to all children in the UK. A checklist of the vaccines that are routinely offered by the NHS, and the ages at which they should ideally be given, are at the end of this letter.

If you're not sure whether your child has had all their routine vaccinations, ask your GP surgery to find out for you. Even if your child has missed one it is usually possible to catch up – it is important you try and do this before your child starts school in September.

Do you know about the school-based flu vaccination programme?

Getting your child vaccinated against flu is easy, free and safe.

All children in reception, years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be offered flu vaccination as a simple spray up the nose. It is very quick and painless and protects them and vulnerable family members from flu – which can be a serious illness in some people. You will receive a consent form from your child's school during September – to enable the school nurse to ensure that the vaccine is right for your child.

When you receive the form it is important that you answer **ALL** the questions and sign it to ensure your child receives the vaccination they need. Please **return the signed form** to your child's

school **no later than Friday 29th September 2017**. You can contact the school's flu immunisation team directly on **0203 049 7188**.

If you have any questions, please talk to your GP surgery. You can learn more about childhood vaccinations at [here](#) or search for 'childhood immunisations UK'.

Yours sincerely



Professor Kevin Fenton
Director of Health and Wellbeing



Nina Dohel
Director of Education

NHS vaccination schedule 0 – 5 year olds (2017)

8 weeks (2 months)

- 5-in-1 vaccine
 - Diphtheria
 - Tetanus
 - Whooping cough
 - Polio
 - Haemophilus influenzae type b
- Pneumococcal vaccine
- Rotavirus vaccine
- Men B vaccine

12 weeks (3 months)

- 5-in-1 vaccine (2nd dose)
- Rotavirus vaccine (2nd dose)

16 weeks (4 months)

- 5-in-1 vaccine (3rd dose)
- Pneumococcal vaccine (2nd dose)
- Men B vaccine (2nd dose)

1 year

- MMR vaccine
- Hib/Men C vaccine
- Pneumococcal vaccine (3rd dose)
- Men B vaccine (3rd dose)

2 and 3 years (plus school years reception, one, two, three and four)

- Children's annual flu vaccine

3 years and 4 months

- 4-in-1 pre-school booster
 - Diphtheria
 - Tetanus
 - Whooping cough
 - Polio
- MMR vaccine (2nd dose) - this can be given from 18 months old