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## INTRODUCTION OF A UNIVERSAL HPV IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

Dear Colleague,

This letter provides information on the forthcoming expansion of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme into a universal programme. The vaccine will be offered to boys, in addition to girls, as part of the routine school based<sup>1</sup> schedule in the Isle of Man as well as the UK from 1 September 2019. This follows the UK government's announcement in July 2018 to include HPV vaccination of boys, which was based on the advice of the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The IoM DHSC will adapt this extension.

This letter is aimed at health professionals who will be responsible for implementing the new programme. We encourage you to share this guidance with all those who will be involved in helping to deliver the universal programme in your area.

### Key points about the changes to the programme:

- The same vaccine that is currently used for the girls' programme (Gardasil®, [which protects against HPV types 6,11,16,18]) will be used for the universal programme.
- Gardasil® should be offered routinely to all individuals in school year 8 (age 12 and 13 years) born from 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007, through the school based programme.
- For practical reasons, any individual in school year 8<sup>2</sup>, (regardless of their date of birth), should be offered HPV immunisation.
- A second dose should be offered either within the same school year (separated by a minimum of 6 months), or in the following year.
- A catch-up programme for boys will not be offered.
- Those eligible for the routine school vaccination programme remain so until their 25th birthday.

<sup>1</sup> This will be delivered as a school-based programme, but includes those eligible individuals who may be home-schooled, or schooled outside of mainstream schooling.

<sup>2</sup> This includes any individual who is eligible to be in, or is in school year 8.

## Additional information:

- A revised information leaflet will be available from [www.gov.im/hpv](http://www.gov.im/hpv) and the PHE Immunisation webpage from June 2019.
- A revised factsheet for health professionals will be available from [www.gov.im/guidancecentre](http://www.gov.im/guidancecentre) for health professionals and the PHE Immunisation webpage from June 2019.
- Further detailed clinical guidance for healthcare professionals is set out in **Annex A**.
- The HPV chapter of the Green Book (Immunisation against infectious disease) has been updated and will be available here: [Human papillomavirus chapter of the Green Book](#)
- The JCVI statement about HPV vaccination and expansion to boys is available at: [JCVI statement: extending the HPV vaccination programme – conclusions](#)
- An updated patient group direction template from Public Health England for the administration of human papillomavirus vaccine ([PHE HPV PGD](#)) is available for NHS England areas to adopt and authorise for their commissioned services. The will be done locally.

We do not underestimate the additional work the introduction of the universal HPV programme will bring, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved for their continuing hard work in delivering immunisation programmes to school-aged young people.

If you have any queries about the content of this letter please contact [publichealth@gov.im](mailto:publichealth@gov.im)

Yours sincerely



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# ANNEX A

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## Clinical guidance on immunisation of school-year 8 boys against human papillomavirus infection

1. This guidance is based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)<sup>3</sup>, the UK's independent advisory committee of immunisation experts. Full guidance can be found in the updated chapter on human papillomavirus included in Immunisation against infectious disease ('the Green Book').<sup>4</sup>

### Timing

The vaccine will be offered to boys, in addition to girls, in school year 8 (12 – 13 year olds) as part of the school-based immunisation programme from 1 September 2019. The vaccine will be available to order through the ImmForm website<sup>5</sup> from the beginning of August 2019.

- The first dose can be given at any time during the school year.
- The minimum time between the first and second dose should be six months (where the priming dose is received at less than 15 years of age).
- The maximum time between the first and second dose is 24 months.
- For operational purposes PHE recommends around a 12-month gap between the two doses which would reduce the number of HPV vaccination sessions. However, local needs should be considered when planning the programme.
- If the first dose is given before the age of 15 years the two-dose schedule can be followed. If the course is interrupted, it should be resumed but not repeated, even if more than 24 months have elapsed since the first dose.
- Individuals in eligible cohorts who have not had their first dose of HPV vaccine by the time they are 15 years old should be offered a three-dose schedule. This is because the antibody response in older individuals is not quite as good. The three doses should be offered on a 0, 1 and 4 - 6 month schedule.

### Patient Group Directions

2. An updated patient group direction (PGD) template from Public Health England for the administration of human papillomavirus vaccine (PHE HPV PGD)<sup>6</sup> is available for NHS England Areas to adopt and authorise for their commissioned services. This will be done locally.

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<sup>3</sup> JCVI statement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-statement-extending-the-hpv-vaccination-programme-conclusions>

<sup>4</sup> Green Book chapter: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-papillomavirus-hpv-the-green-book-chapter-18a>

<sup>5</sup> ImmForm website: <https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/Logon.aspx?returnurl=%2f>

<sup>6</sup> PGD website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-patient-group-direction-pgd>