

Be on the TEAM: Teenagers against Meningitis

Evaluating the effect of immunisation with group B meningococcal vaccines on meningococcal carriage

Dear Parent/legal guardian,

We are writing to inform you about an important research study taking place at your teenager's school that is looking at the best way of using meningitis vaccines to reduce the risk of this devastating disease. As part of this we will be inviting your teenager to have two doses of a licensed vaccine against meningitis (MenB) for which they would not otherwise be eligible.

This is a national study enrolling 24 000 year 12/S5 students that has been funded by the Department of Health and is being led by the University of Oxford.

Meningitis is caused by an infection around the surface of the brain. It is rare but can be life-threatening and mostly affects babies, young children and adolescents. An important cause of meningitis is a type of bacteria (or germs) called meningococcus. About 10% of teenagers carry these bacteria at the back of their throat at any one time without causing any symptoms.

What is the 'Be on the TEAM' study?

- This study will see if immunising teenagers with a MenB vaccine reduces the carriage of meningococcus in teenager's throats, which could in turn protect the broader community
- Teenagers who take part will receive 2 doses of a Meningitis B vaccine 1 to 6 months apart
- These are licensed vaccines that teenagers would not otherwise receive routinely, and these vaccines will reduce their risk of meningitis.
- The study team would take 2 throat swabs, 1 year apart
- All visits would be held within participating schools, with follow up community visits for teenagers who leave school during the study period.

Who decides if my teenager takes part?

As your teenager is 16 years of age or older they will be able to decide if they want to take part (consent) themselves, and have been provided with the full information booklet describing the study in more detail. This booklet is available at <http://www.beontheteam.uk/>

If you would like any further information regarding the study, please contact the study team on:

Email: paedneoresearch@bsuh.nhs.uk

Tel: 01273 696955 Ext 2407

We are grateful for the continued enthusiastic and valued role that your school plays in supporting our research.

Many thanks,

Be on the TEAM, Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital, Brighton