

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Protecting against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection and reducing the risk of associated cancer for all students in school years 8 and above**

Decision form: <https://www.somersetsaint.co.uk/Forms/HPV>

Unique school code (Hugh Sexey Church of England Middle School): **SM143329**

In line with NHS recommendations, your child is currently in the year group eligible for the HPV vaccine so we will shortly be visiting their school to administer these. We are writing to provide some information and ask for your decision regarding this offer.

HPV is a common virus but infection with some strains can increase the risk of developing certain cancers later in life, including cervical cancer, some mouth and throat cancers and some cancers of the anus and genital areas, it also helps protect against genital warts. The HPV vaccine has been offered to all girls in school year 8 since September 2008 and has been offered to boys in year 8 since September 2019.

As from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, the vaccine (Gardasil 9 ®) is given as a single dose injection (unless your child is severely immunocompromised or is known to be HIV positive, in which case we will offer a three dose course). For further information about HPV infection and the vaccination please visit

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine.aspx>

**Please do advise us of your decision, whether this is a 'yes' or 'no' to vaccination to ensure your child's records remain up to date.** Please let us know your decision by completing the form using the link and unique school code at the top of this letter. **Please complete this as soon as possible as the link will close at midday on the working day before the team.**

The form can only be completed by someone with legal parental responsibility. If you have any queries about whether you hold legal parental responsibility and are therefore able to complete this, please contact us.

If we do not receive a completed decision form from someone with legal parental responsibility, a young person may be individually assessed on the day and if they can demonstrate an understanding of the vaccination and wish to, be able to self-consent. This is in-line with [Gillick competency and consent to treatment requirements](#).

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at [SomersetSaint@somersetft.nhs.uk](mailto:SomersetSaint@somersetft.nhs.uk) or 0300 323 0032.

Yours sincerely

Somerset SAINT