

## Travelling abroad after school?

If you're planning to travel when you leave school, now is a good time to start thinking about your travel immunisations.

Some injections should be given a few weeks before you travel so try to plan well in advance. There are immunisations against Meningitis, Japanese Encephalitis, Rabies, Hepatitis A, Typhoid Fever, Cholera, Hepatitis B and Yellow Fever. Don't forget you may also need medication to stop you getting Malaria.

Check with your GP, local health clinic or travel clinic to get up to date information on the immunisations you'll need.

## Important information

If your child has any serious illness from the time you return the consent form until your child is due to receive the immunisation; please inform the School Nursing Team using the contact details on the back page.

**If you have any queries or comments please speak to your School Nurse** – see contact details overleaf.

The date of the session at your child's school will be in the Spring Term.

Please keep the immunisation record which will be given to your child at the session in a safe place for future reference. If you request this information from the School Nursing Service at a future date you may be charged as permitted by the Data Protection Act 1998 and any subsequent amendments.

Further information about immunisations can be found here:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/Pages/vaccination-schedule-age-checklist.aspx>

Leaflet produced in consultation with Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

## Contact details for School Nursing Teams

**East Dorset and Christchurch**  
**01425 891162**

**Purbeck**  
**01929 556422**

The information in this leaflet is available in additional languages and alternative formats. Please contact the Trust for further details.

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# School Nursing Service



## School leavers immunisations

Are we protected against Tetanus, Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis?



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**Information  
for school leavers,  
parents and carers**

**Excellence  
Compassion  
Expertise**

## Tetanus

Tetanus is a severe, painful, uncommon disease with a high death rate. It results from bacteria entering the body through a wound - often that wound is so trivial as not to need treatment at the time it was sustained and may even have been forgotten.

The only protection against Tetanus is by immunisation. Your child will probably have had a course of routine vaccines including Tetanus in infancy and a booster injection at the time of starting school.

A last **booster** injection for your child is now due; this will give protection against **Tetanus** into adult life.

It is rare for there to be any ill effects following Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio immunisation; though quite often the injection site will be painful for several days.

## Diphtheria

Diphtheria is a disease which affects the throat and skin. It can also affect the heart and nerves and can be fatal.

This disease is very rare in this country but there is a risk that an outbreak could occur if the number of people who are vaccinated falls below a certain level. Your child will probably have had a course of routine vaccines including the Diphtheria vaccine in infancy and a booster at the time of starting school.

It has been decided to offer a **booster** immunisation to school leavers; in this way individuals will maintain an adequate level of protection into adult life.

Further boosters for adults will not normally be necessary except, perhaps when travelling in countries where **Diphtheria** is common.

## Poliomyelitis

Poliomyelitis is a crippling, often fatal, infectious disease.

It has been conquered in this and other countries as a result of a vigorous immunisation campaign waged for many years **but it will return** unless a safe level of immunity is maintained.

Your child will probably have had a course of routine vaccines including the Polio vaccine in infancy and a booster dose at the time of starting school.

Your child may now be due for a last **booster** dose of **Polio vaccine** before leaving school, so that protection against this disease will continue in adult life.

The Polio vaccine is combined with the Tetanus and Diphtheria injection and further boosters will not normally be needed after this unless travelling abroad to countries where Polio is common.

If you wish your child to receive the booster immunisation for Tetanus Diphtheria and Polio (combined in one injection), please complete the accompanying form, and return it to school within one week.

**If your child has received the immunisation for Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio within the last 5 years possibly at A&E (Accident and Emergency department) following a tetanus prone wound, the nurse will need to know the date it was given, before deciding whether the booster is needed.**

Since October 2003, booster Tetanus injections given by UK A&E Departments and some GP surgeries have been combined with a low dose Diphtheria. More recently, Tetanus, Diphtheria and Inactivated Polio have been given as one injection. Please check if appropriate prior to completion and returning the consent form.

## Important information about Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR)

Reasons to have your child immunised:

- All children need to be vaccinated against **Rubella (German Measles)** to protect unborn babies.
- There were 2,240 confirmed cases of **Mumps** in England and Wales during 2014.
- In recent years there have been some high profile outbreaks of **Measles** in the UK.

If your child has **not** had the **two MMR immunisations** and you would like your child to have this, **it can be done at your GP surgery**.