

26 September 2022

Dear Parents,

Polio booster vaccination programme for children aged 1 to 9

As the person with parental responsibility for a child who is 1 to 9 years old, we are updating you on an additional polio booster dose your child needs.

Following the detection of polio virus in sewage samples taken from North and East London, the NHS has contacted 1 to 9 year olds in London for a polio vaccination. For some children this may be an extra dose of polio vaccine, on top of their routine vaccinations. In other children it may just bring them up to date.

We have not seen a live case of polio in the UK since 1984, and it is vital that we prevent any community spread which could result in life-long paralysis and other disabilities, and in some cases, even death. There is no cure for polio, immunisation is the only protection.

You can find more information about polio, its symptoms, and vaccinations by visiting <https://northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/polio-booster-vaccination/>

Getting vaccinated

The vaccine has been safely used in millions of children and will give them a high level of protection from polio. The vaccine is given as part of a combined vaccine to babies, toddlers, and teenagers as part of the NHS routine childhood vaccination schedule.

It's given when the child is:

- 8, 12 and 16 weeks old as part of the 6-in-1 vaccine
- 3 years and 4 months old as part of the 4-in-1 (DTaP/IPV) pre-school booster
- 14 years old as part of the 3-in-1 (Td/IPV) teenage booster

Your child will need to have all these vaccinations to be fully vaccinated against polio.

Where can you get vaccinated?

As a parent or guardian, you will have been contacted by the NHS by letter or text asking you to book an appointment with your GP. We encourage you to take up the offer as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

If you are not yet registered with a GP, details on how to find and register with a GP can be found at GP visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/>. GPs treat all common medical conditions and provide immunisations to adults and children.

All parents with children aged 1 to 9 are being offered an appointment by their GP practice.

Additionally, there are a number of community vaccination centres, which parents can either book or walk in to with their child. Full details of these vaccination sites across north east London can be found here: www.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/polio-booster-vaccination/

More of these sites will be opening in the coming weeks and some will be increasing the eligibility range too. The website will be kept up to date with this information. Currently:

- Sites are offering vaccinations for children aged 6 to 9, if the child is up to date with their NHS routine childhood vaccinations and has not had a vaccine within the last 12 months; and
- Homerton Hospital is offering vaccinations to all 5 to 9 year olds regardless of whether the child is up to date with their NHS routine childhood vaccinations.

It is important to come forward for the polio booster as soon as possible.

If you have any questions surrounding the polio programme, please visit the frequently asked questions sections on the NHS North East London website:

<https://northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/polio-booster-vaccination/#polio-booster-vaccination-FAQ>

We hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



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