**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 aged between 16 to 19 years old that has been funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) 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. All students at your teenager’s school/college will all receive Bexsero® (4CMenB).
* The study team would take 2 throat swabs, 1 year apart (at the beginning and end of the study)
* As with most vaccines, immunisation with 4CMenB can cause some discomfort at the injection site, and can be associated with short lived headaches, generalised aches and pains, or gastrointestinal upset. Approximately 2% of teenagers get a fever after the vaccine. More information about the study vaccine is available at: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.5168.pdf>
* 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 aged 16 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** <https://beontheteam.web.ox.ac.uk>

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

Email: [NSS.HPSImmunisation@nhs.net](mailto:NSS.HPSImmunisation@nhs.net)

Tel: 0141 300 1191

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

Many thanks,

Be on the TEAM

Glasgow