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Headteacher: Mr M Wignall

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Dear Parent/Carer

Following on from my e-mail yesterday informing you of the cancellation of the Year 9 teenage booster vaccination, several of you have expressed concerns over whether your child is still protected whilst awaiting their re-scheduled vaccination. Please be assured, the teenage booster is the final vaccination in the childhood vaccination schedule, so as long as your child has had the others they have protection. There is no need for the schedule to be repeated.

The following paragraph is information provided by the immunisation team regarding the vaccines and how immunity is gained:

***A first injection of an inactivated vaccine or toxoid in an individual without prior exposure to the antigen produces a primary antibody response. This response is dominated by IgM antibody initially, followed by IgG antibody. Two or more injections may be needed to elicit such a response in young infants. This is usually called the primary course. Depending on the potency of the product and the time interval, further injections will lead to an accelerated response dominated by IgG – the secondary response. Following a primary course of vaccination, antibodies may persist for months or years. Even if the level of detectable antibody subsequently falls, the immune system has been primed and an individual may be protected. Further reinforcing doses of vaccine are used to boost immunity and to provide longer-term protection. Inactivated vaccines cannot cause the disease that they are designed to prevent.***

The Immunisation Team will be running clinics at the Brighton General Hospital so parents/carers will be contacted to book an appointment if schools do not reopen soon. I hope this has given some reassurance but if you do require further information please contact Debbie Millar, Immunisation Team Clinical Lead Nurse, on [07342074182](tel:07342074182).

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Pryor  
Medical Welfare Officer

