**Information for parents prior to childhood vaccinations**

\*\*\*COVID 19 update: NHS England is urging people to attend all regular vaccination appointments to prevent outbreaks of serious disease. Vaccines prevent conditions which cause much more harm to young children than COVID 19. Your family’s safety is paramount and your appointment will be at a protected site in GPS Healthcare. We wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect everybody involved.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/05/nhs-urges-public-to-get-essential-vaccines-despite-coronavirus-outbreak/> \*\*\*

**Routine childhood vaccinations**

When your baby is 8 weeks old they start having their vaccinations. These injections work very effectively at keeping your baby healthy. A child is given vaccinations to cover 13 diseases, including meningitis, measles, whooping cough and polio over the first few years of life.

Vaccines work, and for this reason a number of previously common diseases have become very rare in the UK. Vaccination rates have dropped nationally over recent years, which has led to outbreaks of whooping cough and measles. These are life threatening diseases to young children.

Vaccines support your baby’s immune system and have been studied extensively to ensure they are safe.

**Before the appointment**

You will be offered combination appointments whereby your child can have their 8 week medical examination by the GP and then see the nurse on the same visit for their first vaccinations. Please contact reception if the appointments are not convenient and we will be pleased to offer you alternative times.

Should you wish to read more information about vaccines; please consider these following websites which have thorough and balanced information:

<http://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/>

<https://www.immunology.org/public-information/all-about-vaccines>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/>

**On the day of the appointment**

Please can you bring your child’s red book and a bottle of liquid paracetamol to the appointment? We will update their red book and will advise you about how and when you are recommended to give paracetamol following vaccines.

Please inform your nurse if you are concerned your child is unwell on the day; we postpone vaccinations if a child has a high temperature.

**After the appointment**

Your child is likely to cry for a short while but they should feel better with a cuddle. You may wish to bring your child’s favourite blanket or toy for comfort. Your child may have redness or pain at the site of the injection; this usually gets better on its own in a few days. You may find your child develops a fever after the vaccination, and this should be managed in the same way you usually manage a high temperature. You should make sure your child is not wearing too many clothes, offer them plenty to drink and you can give liquid paracetamol.

It is very rare that a child develops a serious reaction to a vaccine. It is thought about one in one million vaccinations may cause serious allergy or anaphylaxis. With prompt treatment, which is of course available immediately in all GP surgeries, the child makes a good recovery.

**Summary**

We are passionate about providing the best possible care to all our patients, and strongly believe that supporting vaccination is crucial to keeping children and young people healthy. Parents and carers may well have questions about vaccinations. There are a number of excellent online resources containing thorough and balanced information (see links above). If you prefer to talk through your concerns please book an appointment with your GP.

**#VaccinesWork to save lives. #VaccinesWork when coverage rates are high. Let’s make #VaccinesWork for everyone – World Health Organisation**

**Vaccines prevent 2-3 million children dying every year - World Health Organisation**

**The riskiest vaccine? The one that is not given - Science Magazine**

**#VaccinesWork**