

15th July 2019

Dear parent/staff member,

Hepatitis A vaccination for children at Outwood Academy Ripon

This is our latest update from Public Health England. Public Health England and other partners are continuing to investigate and monitor the ongoing outbreak of hepatitis A in Ripon. The total number of cases confirmed in our school and in the Ripon community now stands at 29.

The number of cases with confirmed links to our school continues to slow, but we have also seen transmission occurring within the school from pupil to pupil spread. In order to reduce the chance of further transmission Public Health England, North Yorkshire County Council and the NHS have now recommended that hepatitis A vaccinations are offered to all our pupils and staff ahead of the school holiday. These measures will help to prevent spread of the infection from person to person throughout the summer. Illness can develop up to seven weeks after initial contact with an infectious person.

A vaccination session will take place in our school on Tuesday 16th July 2019

It's important for everyone who is offered vaccination to take it up, for their individual protection and to try and prevent further spread of the infection. However, if your child is unable to attend the above scheduled session, please do not worry as a further opportunity will be provided and we will share details of a second vaccination session in due course.

Please complete the attached consent form and ensure that your child brings it with them to the immunisation session.

Any health risk continues to be low; hepatitis A infection does not usually cause serious illness. It is usually a mild illness in children, who often don't show any symptoms, though they can pass on the infection to others. The infection can, however, be more serious in adults and it's important we take the necessary steps to protect our children and staff members from this infection.

Hepatitis A is a viral infection, passed from person to person by eating food or drinking water containing the virus. The virus can spread easily within families and where people live closely together. The virus is passed out in the faeces (poo) of an infected person and so it is **very** important to **wash your hands** after going to the toilet and before preparing food.

The symptoms of hepatitis A infection are similar to flu, including mild fever, joint and muscle pain, feeling and being sick, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and stomach pain. This can be followed by jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes), dark-coloured urine and itchy skin. Not everyone infected will have all these symptoms.

If anyone in your family develops the symptoms above in the coming 2-6 weeks, please contact your GP and inform the school. Anyone with suspected hepatitis A infection should not attend school until their doctor advises return. This is usually for a period of one week.

For more information on hepatitis A go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hepatitis-a/>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs G Trattles
Principal

