

Dear parent/staff member,

**Second Hepatitis A vaccination session  
for Outwood Academy pupils at Ripon Rugby Club**

As you are aware, a Hepatitis A vaccination session took place in our school on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019, during which, 491 pupils were vaccinated. **For any pupils who were not vaccinated earlier this week, a second vaccination session is taking place at Ripon Rugby Club, Mallorie Park Drive, HG4 2QD on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 between 1pm and 4pm.** This is a drop-in session, so **no appointment is necessary.**

**If your child can attend, please complete the attached consent form and ensure that they bring it with them to the immunisation session outlined above.**

Public Health England and other partners continue 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 30.

The number of cases with confirmed links to our school continues to slow, but vaccinations have been offered to our school pupils and staff because we have also seen pupil to pupil spread. This should help 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.

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 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

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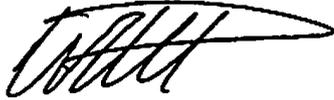
A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Pratt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr W Pratt  
Principal

## **Advice provided by Public Health England, FAQs**

### **What if my child can't attend this vaccination session?**

Whilst it's important your child attends if they can, please don't worry if they can't due to planned holidays etc. The high number of children vaccinated already should reduce the risk of further transmission.

### **What is Hepatitis A?**

Hepatitis A is a viral disease, which affects the liver. It occurs most often in school children and young adults and is often associated with foreign travel. It may be known as infectious hepatitis. It is a different disease from hepatitis B and C.

### **How do I know if someone has it?**

The illness usually begins with a sudden onset of fever (temperature), feeling unwell, loss of appetite, nausea and stomach pain which is followed within a few days by jaundice - a yellow discolouration of the whites of the eyes and often the skin. Severity of symptoms increases with age. Young children may have mild infections without jaundice or other symptoms.

### **Is it infectious?**

Yes, the infection is most commonly spread from person to person by infected faeces (stools) and poor hygiene. Transmission within households is very common. The faeces from infected people are infectious for two weeks before the person becomes ill and for about a week after the jaundice appears. Children without symptoms may be infectious for several weeks. People travelling abroad to countries where sanitation is poor are at risk of becoming infected. It is always advisable to seek travel health advice from your GP before undertaking any foreign travel.

Cases can return to their work/ school roughly seven days after the illness begins if they feel well enough.

### **How can the spread of Hepatitis A infection be avoided?**

- Good hand washing; especially after using the toilet, after helping a child with toileting and before eating and preparing food, is the most effective way to prevent hepatitis A spreading.
- Toilets (handles and seats) should be kept clean.

### **What is the incubation period?**

Illness may appear between 2 to 6 weeks after contact with an infected person. While vaccination may prevent the disease from occurring it may not be completely effective in preventing the illness if the person is incubating the illness due the long incubation period. It is therefore important to be aware of the signs and symptoms described above and seek advice from your GP if concerned.

### **Can you tell me more about the vaccine?**

The vaccine is an inactivated vaccine (not a live virus) and cannot cause the illness it protects against. The vaccine is usually offered to household contacts of cases of infection as a precaution. The vaccine is very safe and effective but may not prevent infection in all cases. Side effects are usually mild and the commonest reactions are transient soreness at the injection site. An initial dose of vaccine will give short term protection. If longer term protection is needed (e.g. for travel purposes), a booster dose can be given at 6 to 12 months for protection which will last up to 20 years

### **What should I do if I think a member of my household has the illness?**

Seek advice from your GP.