****INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY**

Version 1 – 15/5/19

*Ethical Clearance Reference Number: HR-18/19-12011*

**YOU CAN DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET**

**Improving the way we talk to parents and children about the HPV vaccine**

We are a group of university researchers interested in the information that young people and adults are getting about the HPV vaccine. Because you’re in Year 8, we would like to ask you to take part in our study about this. You don’t have to take part if you don’t want to, it’s entirely up to you.

This letter tells you more about what’s involved. We’re also giving another letter to your parent or guardian. You should talk to them about this. You can only take part if both you and your parent or guardian say you can.

Once you’ve read this, if you want to ask us any questions, that’s absolutely fine. Our contact details are at the end.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

The aim of this study is to understand what young people and their parents are hearing about the HPV vaccine. We are interested in what you have heard about the vaccine, from your parents, friends and on social media. In particular we want to know about what you think the vaccine is for, whether you’ve heard anything about possible side effects and whether you have any worries. We are also interested in possible side effects from the vaccine and would like to know how you feel in the days before and after the vaccinations take place at your school.

We are asking everyone in Year 8 at your school to take part, even if you are not going to be vaccinated for HPV.

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**What will happen if I take part?**

If you take part in the study, you will be asked to complete two questionnaires in school: one on the day of the HPV vaccinations and one two days after the vaccinations. The first questionnaire will take 10-15 minutes to complete. The second questionnaire will take 5-10 minutes to complete. Your teacher will give you the questionnaires.

We’ll also email two questionnaires to your parent or guardian.

**What will happen to my answers?**

This isn’t an exam! We are interested in your thoughts. Only the researchers will be able to see your answers – we will not show them to your parents, guardians or teachers. The only time we would tell anyone else about one of your answers is if you say something that makes us very worried about the safety of you or someone else.

**Do I have to take part?**

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No, it really is up to you whether you want to take part. You can only take part if both you and your parent or guardian are happy.

**Will I be paid for taking part?**

As a thank you for taking part, we will enter you into a prize draw for £20 of Amazon vouchers.

**What if I change my mind about taking part?**

That’s fine. Remember, you don’t have to fill out the questionnaires if you don’t want to. And even after you’ve sent them to us, if you change your mind and don’t want us to use your answers, you just need to let us know. You’ll need to tell us within two weeks and two days of the HPV vaccinations at your school if you want to do this. You don’t have to give us a reason if you want to stop or if you don’t want us to use your answers.

**What will happen to the results of the study?**

We would like to publish the results of the study in a scientific journal. If you want a copy, please send us an email.

**Who should I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions or would like any more information about this study, please contact me (Louise Smith) using the contact details below:

Email: [louise.e.smith@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:louise.e.smith@kcl.ac.uk)

Phone number: 0207 848 5684

Address: Department of Psychological Medicine, Weston Education Centre, Cutcombe Road, London, SE5 9RJ.

**What if there are any problems?**

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You can contact the ethics committee about any problems. Their contact details are:

The Chair, Psychiatry, Nursing and Midwifery Research Ethics Subcommittees (PNM RESC) [rec@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:rec@kcl.ac.uk)

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.**