



July 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Referral for BCG vaccination – possible delay

You are receiving this letter because your child has been referred for BCG vaccination but there may be a significant wait for an appointment.

This is because there has been a limited supply of this vaccine over the last two years and whilst there is now a good supply, there is a waiting list for children who are eligible for BCG immunisation. Your local clinic is working to ensure all children on the waiting list are offered vaccination as soon as possible.

Overall the risk of TB in unvaccinated children in the UK is low. The main way to stop TB from spreading is to make sure that people with active TB are diagnosed early and treated correctly.

BCG vaccination works best to prevent serious forms of TB in babies, so the available vaccine is being prioritised for use in newborn babies. Routinely vaccinating older children is not recommended by the World Health Organization as risk of serious forms of TB decreases with age, and BCG vaccination offers much less protection in older children and adolescents.

Your child has been referred to a local BCG clinic and they will be kept on a waiting list. The BCG clinic will contact you when they are able to offer an appointment.

For further information about the BCG vaccination please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tb-bcg-and-your-baby-leaflet>

Yours sincerely,

Dr Alison Mackenzie
Consultant in Public Health Medicine/Screening and Immunisation Lead