



Dr Nicole Klynman
Director of Public Health
London Borough of Bexley

Dear Parents,

I am writing with the latest information on the Polio booster vaccination programme.

Polio booster vaccination programme

Following the detection of polio virus in sewage samples taken from north and east London, the NHS is offering all 1-9 year old in London a polio booster vaccination. For some children this may be an extra dose of polio vaccine, on top of their routine vaccinations. In other children it may just bring the vaccination up to date.

Polio is an infection caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. Because of the success of the Polio Vaccination Programme, there have been no cases of polio infection in the UK since 1984. By giving an extra polio vaccine dose, this will allow the improvement of child's protection

Find more information about polio, its symptoms, and vaccinations by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/polio/>

Getting vaccinated

The polio vaccine is safe and effective. The best way to prevent polio is to make sure parents/carers and children are up to date with their vaccinations. The vaccine is given as part of a combined jab as part of the NHS routine childhood vaccination schedule:

- 8, 12 and 16 weeks old as part of the 6-in-1 vaccine
- 3 years and 4 months old as part of the 4-in-1 (DTaP/IPV) pre-school booster
- 14 years old as part of the 3-in-1 (Td/IPV) teenage booster

Your child needs to have all these vaccinations to be fully vaccinated against polio.

Where can your child get vaccinated?

The NHS in London is contacting parents to ask you to book an appointment for the Polio Booster.

Parents and guardians can check their child's red book or can speak to their General Practitioner (GP) if they are unsure if their child has received this vaccine.



If you are not yet registered with a GP, details on how to find and register with a GP can be found at GP services by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/>.

Children aged between 1 and 4

Parents with children aged between 1 and 4 are being offered an appointment at their GP practice.

Children aged between 5 and 9

Parents with children aged between 5 and 9 years old can use the following link to book a vaccination appointment for your child [Polio vaccination sites - NHS South East London \(selondonics.org\)](https://selondonics.org) It is important to come forward for the Polio booster as soon as possible.

There are two pharmacies in Bexley that will be able to offer Polio Booster:

Belvedere Pharmacy 11 Picardy Street Belvedere DA17 5QQ	Aspire Pharmacy (from Friday 23 rd of September) 23 High Street Sidcup DA14 6EQ
Age groups: 5 to 9 years Walk-in appointments: Yes Appointment booking: Yes – call 020 8311 4087 Opening times: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday to Friday: 9am to 6pm• Saturday: 10am to 2pm	Age groups: 5 to 9 years Walk-in appointments: Yes Appointment booking: Yes – call 020 8300 2008 Opening times: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday to Saturday: 8.30am to 7pm• Sunday: 11am to 4pm

Frequently asked questions about the polio vaccination programme for children can be found by visiting [Polio vaccination - NHS South East London \(selondonics.org\)](https://selondonics.org)

Best wishes,

Dr Nicole Klynman
Director of Public Health
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