

Dear Parent / Guardian,

### Improvements and changes to the BCG Immunisation Programme

The Department of Health changed its policy in relation to BCG immunisation which offers protection against tuberculosis (TB) in 2005. We are continuing to implement this Department of Health policy and will only be offering BCG to children considered to be most at risk of coming into contact with infectious TB.

This change to policy has been brought in because areas where there are high numbers of TB cases tend to be concentrated in big cities and all children born within these areas are automatically offered BCG vaccination. In Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin the number of TB cases remains very low when compared to some areas in London.

TB is a difficult infection to catch and usually requires prolonged or repeated contact with someone who is infectious. This is most likely to occur when living in the same household as someone with TB disease where they are breathing or coughing out the bacteria.

In the UK, those children who are at most risk of developing TB disease are children who:

- Are close contacts of a person with infectious TB; young children and elderly are more susceptible
- Have visited, or lived for a long time (three months plus) in countries with a high rate of TB (see over for list of countries)
- Are the children of a parent /or parents; or grandparents whose country of origin has a high rate of TB\* or have visitors staying in the home from these countries

\*Please note; even if your child, you and your partner were born in this country your child should still be offered BCG unless you have had no contact with the country your family originated from for at least three generations (see over for list of countries).

Please read the information carefully. If you consider that any of the risk factors apply to your child / children and they have not previously received the BCG vaccination, please contact Carole Hales, BCG/HPV Coordinator on 01743 450800.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation in this matter, if you have any queries regarding the information held in this letter please do not hesitate to contact Carole Hales as above.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Catherine Woodward**  
Director of Health  
Improvement and  
Commissioning



**Carole Hales**  
BCG/HPV Co-ordinator  
Telford & Wrekin PCT  
Services for Children & Young  
People

### Countries which have high rates of TB – known as high-risk countries

The following table lists the countries that have high rates of TB over 40 / 100,000 of the population.

<b>A</b> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan	<b>E</b> Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia	<b>M</b> Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar	<b>S</b> Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia & Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic
	<b>G</b> Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guam, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana		
<b>B</b> Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burma (Myanmar), Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi	<b>H</b> Haiti, Honduras	<b>N</b> Namibia, Nepal, New Caledonia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Northern Mariana Islands	<b>T</b> Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Toga, Tokelau, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu
	<b>I</b> India, Indonesia, Iraq	<b>P</b> Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines	
<b>C</b> Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia	<b>J</b> Japan	<b>Q</b> Qatar	<b>U</b> Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan
	<b>K</b> Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Korea	<b>R</b> Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda	
<b>D</b> Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic	<b>L</b> Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania		<b>V</b> Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam
			<b>Y</b> Yemen
			<b>Z</b> Zambia, Zimbabwe