



Hertfordshire
**Family Centre
Service**

Hertfordshire County Council
Public Health
County Hall
CHO231
Pegs Lane
Hertford SG13 8DE

Email: publichealth@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Autumn 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Measuring the height and weight of children in Year 6 – 2023/24

Helping children to achieve a healthy weight is important for their chances in the rest of life, can help prevent some forms of diabetes and cancer in your child in later life, and promote mental health and wellbeing. It is really important to have a good understanding of how children are growing so that we can provide the best possible advice and support.

Every year in England, children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). It is now in its seventeenth year in Hertfordshire.

We are writing to you because your child's class will take part in this year's programme. To make sure we respect the privacy and feelings of your child:

- The measurements will only be carried out by trained healthcare professionals from Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust Public Health Nursing Service (School Nursing).
- Measurements will be carried out in a **private area away from other pupils**.
- Children who take part will be measured **fully clothed** except for their coats and shoes.
- Any cultural needs of the child will be respected.
- Children will not be made to take part if they do not want to take part.

Please watch this clip for more information about how this programme is delivered locally:
<https://youtu.be/uNtJwwHViGk>

Information will be treated **confidentially**. We do **not** give height or weight measurements of any child to school staff or other children. We collect routine data such as your child's name, gender, address, postcode, ethnicity, and date of birth. This data is needed because their age, gender, ethnicity, and the place they live are known to affect their height and weight.

This information will be used within the local authority, NHS, and BeeZee Bodies (The Hertfordshire Healthy Lifestyle Service), if there are concerns about a child's weight, to help us understand and plan support for weight-related problems for children. If information is shared with BeeZee Bodies, they may make direct contact with you so they can talk to you about what support is available to you and your family.

The measurements collected are analysed nationally in a way that are anonymised and that means individual children **cannot** be directly identified.

Measurements are stored locally on NHS child health records for the purposes of providing results and follow-up advice to parents. The results are based on Body Mass Index (BMI) and if there is any concern about your child's health based on the results, we will write to you, explaining the result and giving information that might support you. In some areas your child's results may also be shared with your GP or BeeZee Bodies (Hertfordshire's Healthy Lifestyle Service), who may also provide support to your family if required. The data from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust. Information regarding how this data is stored by Hertfordshire Community NHS trust can be found here: <https://www.hct.nhs.uk/about-us/data-protection-and-your-information/>.

The information collected about your child will be shared by NHS England with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) which is part of the Department of Health and Social Care but in a de-personalised form only. This means OHID will not be able to identify your child. OHID is responsible for working to protect and improve the nation's health. NHS England is responsible for collecting health and care information to check how the NHS and social care services are doing, and to use this to improve the care provided to people across England.

Both NHS England and OHID will use the information from the National Child Measurement Programme to better understand numbers and trends in child weight and body mass index (BMI). This helps with the planning of services to support healthy lifestyles in your area. No information will ever be published by NHS England or OHID that identifies your child.

If your child was previously measured for the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), NHS England may link your child's current and previous height and weight measurements. It may also link their measurements with other information it holds about your child such as their dental survey results or the reasons for any visits they may have made to hospital. Linking your child's information in this way helps better understand how and why the weight status of children is changing.

De-personalised information from the NCMP may also be shared by NHS England with other organisations, such as universities. This is to help improve health, care and services through research and planning. This information cannot be used to identify your child, and NHS England only ever shares information for research with the approval of an independent group of experts.

Further information about the NCMP can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/national-child-measurement-programme>.

Information and fun ideas to help your kids stay healthy can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/> and <https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/>.

Information about the organisations NHS England has shared information from the NCMP with, can be found at <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-child-measurement-programme>.

Opting your child out of the programme

If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything. However, if you do not wish your child to take part, you can email Herts Community NHS Trust (see details below).

Yours faithfully



Jim McManus
**Executive Director of
Public Health**
Hertfordshire County Council



Jo Fisher
**Executive Director of
Children's Services**
Hertfordshire County Council



Elliot Howard-Jones
Chief Executive
Hertfordshire Community
NHS Trust

If you do not want your child to be included in this programme, please email the area in which your child attends school **WITHIN TWO WEEKS** of receiving this letter, stating that you wish for them to be excluded from the NCMP.

Welwyn and Hatfield, East Herts or Broxbourne:
HCT.SHWBSWH@nhs.net

Stevenage, Royston or North Herts: HCT.rsnh@nhs.net

Watford, 3 Rivers or Hertsmere: HCT.W3RH@nhs.net

St Albans or Dacorum: HCT.stadac@nhs.net

