

# **Protocol for Delivering Neonatal BCG vaccine in London**

**September 2020 – September 2021**



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This protocol updates the BCG London Protocol published in December 2020.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 the way we deliver BCG vaccine to babies in London has changed:

- Neonatal BCG vaccine will no longer be available to all babies; instead it will be offered to those babies who are most at risk of tuberculosis (TB);
- Neonatal BCG vaccine will no longer be delivered in maternity units. Babies who are eligible for BCG will be referred to community vaccination clinics to be vaccinated.

## 1.2 The national BCG immunisation programme is delivered as a risk-based programme. A key part of this risk-based approach is the selective neonatal programme targeted at those infants most at risk of exposure to TB. Those most at risk are defined in the Green Book as:

- all infants (aged 0 to 12 months) with a parent or grandparent who was born in a country where the annual incidence of TB is 40/100,000 or greater
- all infants (aged 0 to 12 months) living in areas of the UK where the annual incidence of TB is 40/100,000 or greater.

## 1.3 In London, due to a historically higher annual incidence of TB, the BCG immunisation programme has been delivered universally to all newborn babies in many areas. However, the annual incidence of TB in London has been in decline, falling from a rate of over 40 per 100,000 in 2012 to a current overall rate of 19 per 100,000. Due to this, the number of infants most at risk of exposure to TB in London has also decreased significantly.

## 1.4 Therefore, from 1st September 2020, the neonatal BCG immunisation programme will no longer be available universally in London and will instead be targeted to those infants most at risk of exposure to TB. This will bring the London region in line with the rest of England.

## 2. Aim

- 2.1 The aim of the neonatal BCG immunisation programme is to prevent infection from TB and reduce the risk of progression to severe disease. London remains committed to further reducing TB incidence through its programme of work under the London TB Control Board.
- 2.2 This protocol clarifies how neonatal BCG is offered to infants aged 0-12 months in London. It should be read in conjunction with [the national BCG immunisation programme 2019/20 Service Specification](#).

## 3. Eligibility assessment

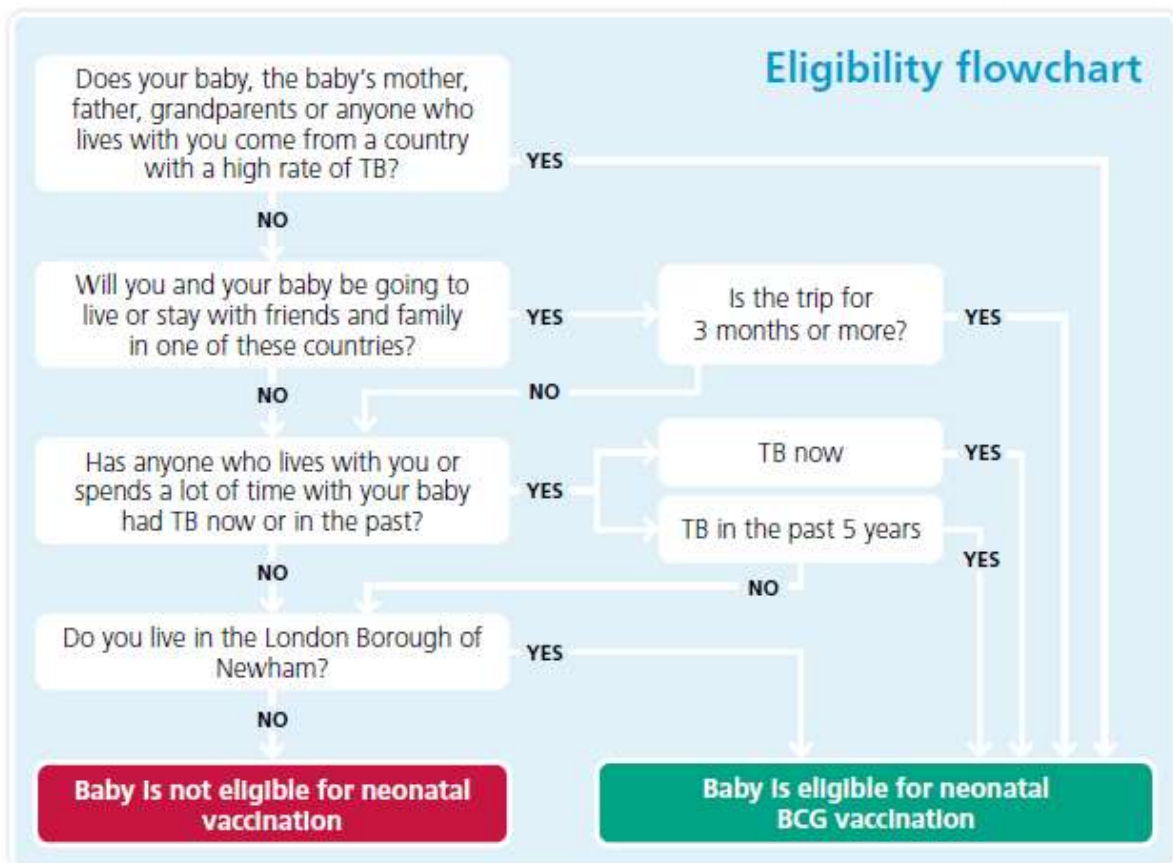
- 3.1 Babies are eligible for neonatal BCG if they are identified as at increased risk of TB.
- 3.2 Nationally, eligibility is assessed by a series of three questions to determine the risk to the baby. In London an additional question is currently used due to there being one London borough with TB incidence over the threshold value for universal vaccination. This requirement is likely to change in the near future as the incidence of TB continues to decrease across London.
- 3.3 An infant is eligible for neonatal BCG vaccination if the answer is yes to ANY of the following four questions:
- **Does your baby, the baby's mother, father, grandparents or anyone who lives with you come from a country with a high rate of TB?**
    - A list of countries with a high rate of TB is available online<sup>1</sup>.
  - **Will you and your baby be going to live or stay with friends and family in one of these countries for 3 months or more?**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tuberculosis-tb-by-country-rates-per-100000-people>

- A visit of 3 months or more to any of the countries listed above is required for eligibility for BCG.
- **Has anyone who lives with you or spends a lot of time with your baby had TB now or in the past 5 years?**
  - Spending time with someone who has TB now or has had TB in the last 5 years is required for eligibility for BCG.
- **Do you live in the London Borough of Newham<sup>2</sup>?**
  - Newham has an annual incidence of TB of over 40 per 100,000 according to the latest data. All newborn babies who live in Newham should be offered neonatal BCG.

**Figure 1 – Eligibility flowchart for neonatal BCG**



<sup>2</sup> This is the only remaining borough in London with an incidence over 40 per 100,000 population

## 4. Referral pathways

### 4.1 Maternity pathway

- 4.1.1 From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, when a baby is born in London, the maternity service is required to identify whether the baby is eligible for BCG immunisation. This should occur post-natally alongside the Newborn Infant Physical Examination (NIPE).
- 4.1.2 If a baby is identified as eligible for BCG immunisation then the maternity service should record eligibility for neonatal BCG in the relevant fields in Smart for NIPE (S4N). Completion of these mandatory fields will generate an automatic referral to the relevant provider via the Child Health Information Service (CHIS).
- 4.1.3 All BCG vaccinations will be offered in the community by the commissioned community providers. Details of the community providers, determined by infants' borough of residence, are included in the [Appendix](#).
- 4.1.4 Providers delivering BCG clinics are required to accept referrals for all eligible babies.

#### Out of Area Babies

- 4.1.5 Babies born in London hospitals but who reside outside London should be assessed for BCG eligibility by the maternity unit, and eligibility for neonatal BCG should be recorded in the relevant fields in Smart for NIPE (S4N).
- 4.1.6 Completion of these mandatory fields will generate an automatic referral via the CHIS. Referral will be made to the BCG community clinic local to the maternity unit if the baby's postcode is not a London postcode.

## **Neonatal Unit/Special Care Babies**

- 4.1.7 If a baby is admitted to Special Care (SCBU) or Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) shortly after birth, eligibility for BCG should be assessed by the neonatal team.
- 4.1.8 If a baby is identified as eligible for BCG immunisation then the neonatal team should record eligibility for neonatal BCG in the relevant fields in Smart for NIPE (S4N) during the NIPE. Completion of these mandatory fields will generate an automatic referral to the relevant provider via the CHIS.
- 4.1.9 If the baby is still in SCBU or NICU when the BCG community provider makes contact to book the appointment, the BCG community provider will make arrangements to rebook at a later date.

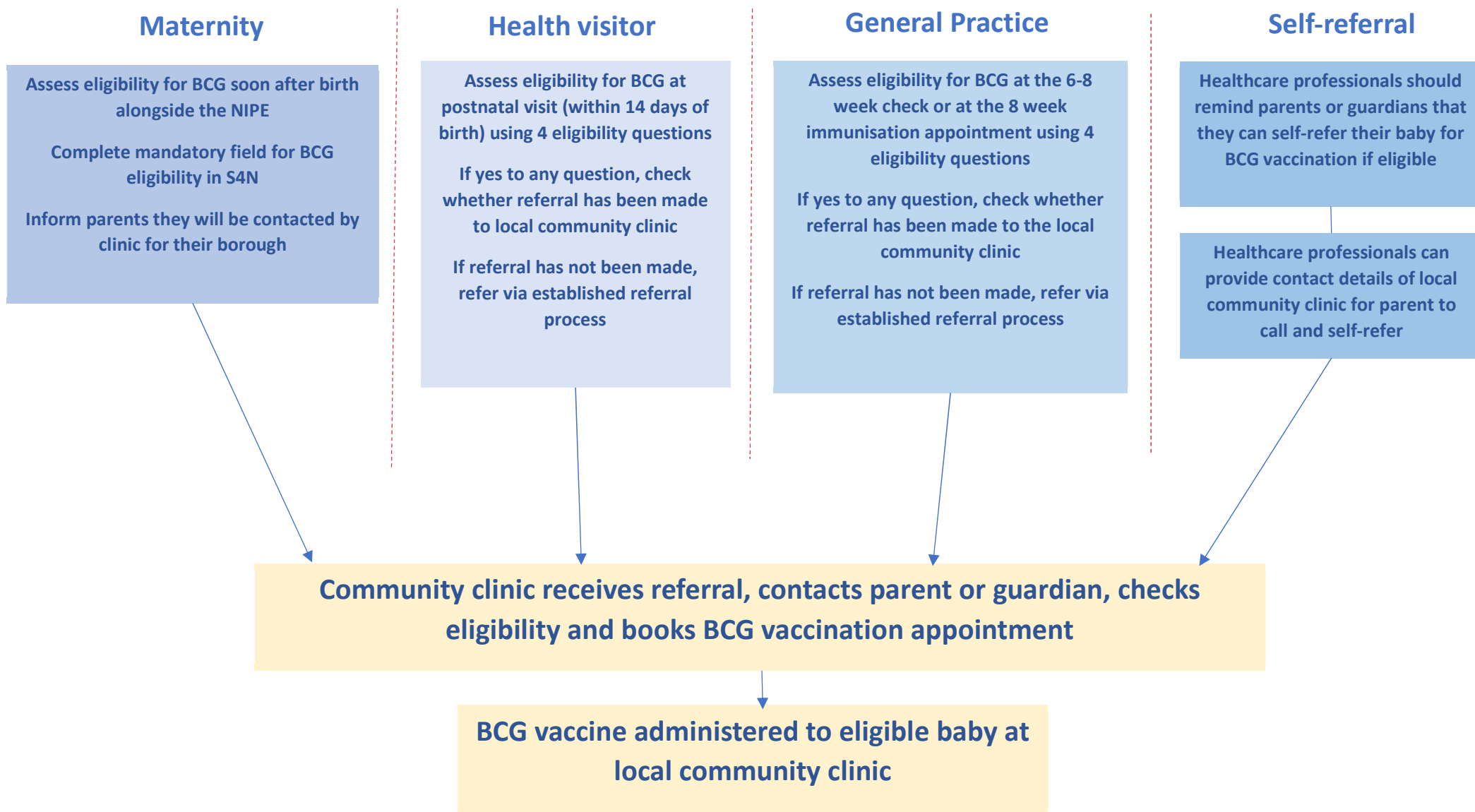
## **4.2 Health visitor and GP pathway**

- 4.2.1 Health visitors and GPs are required to identify which babies in their care are eligible for BCG immunisation and ensure they have been referred to their appropriate community clinic.
- 4.2.2 Eligibility should be assessed using the questions set out in section 3 of this protocol.
- 4.2.3 If a referral is required this should be done by the established referral route to the community provider.

## **4.3 Self-referral**

- 4.3.1 A baby's parent or guardian can self-refer the baby to their community provider for BCG vaccination.
- 4.3.2 Community providers are expected to assess the eligibility of all babies who self-refer for BCG vaccination. Eligibility should be assessed using the questions set out in section 3 of this protocol.

**Figure 2 - Referral pathways for BCG vaccination in London**





## 5. Record Keeping, Monitoring and Surveillance

- 5.1 It is imperative that where the BCG vaccine has been given, the Child Health Information Service (CHIS), the GP and the child's red book (child development record) are updated.
- 5.2 Community providers will be required to keep the NHSE London Immunisation Team updated on process and uptake and provide monthly returns, including Did Not Attends (DNAs).
- 5.3 Uptake data are reviewed on a monthly basis by the NHSE/I Immunisation Commissioners, at the quarterly ICS Immunisation Boards and the CHIS Performance Board.
- 5.4 There will be regular audits undertaken by the NHSE/I London immunisation commissioning team. Providers are expected to comply with requests for information.

## Appendix – Community providers by borough

Infant residence borough	Community BCG provider	Clinic address(es)	Referral contact details
<b>North West London</b>			
Brent	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL)	Belsize Priory Clinic, 208 Belsize Road, London NW6 4DX	<a href="mailto:patriciastephens@nhs.net">patriciastephens@nhs.net</a>
Ealing	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL)	The Warren Clinic, The Warren Health Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0SF	<a href="mailto:cnw-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net">cnw-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net</a>
Hammersmith & Fulham	Central London Community Health (CLCH)	Parsons Green Health Centre, 5-7 Parsons Green, London, SW6 4UL	<a href="mailto:clcht.clchbcginners@nhs.net">clcht.clchbcginners@nhs.net</a>
Harrow	Central London Community Health (CLCH)	Alexandra Avenue Health and Social Care Centre, 275 Alexandra Avenue, Harrow HA2 9DX	<a href="mailto:clcht.harrowandbarnetbcg@nhs.net">clcht.harrowandbarnetbcg@nhs.net</a>

<b>Infant residence borough</b>	<b>Community BCG provider</b>	<b>Clinic address(es)</b>	<b>Referral contact details</b>
Hillingdon	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL)	The Warren Clinic, The Warren Health Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0SF	<a href="mailto:cnw-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net">cnw-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net</a>
Hounslow	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)	Brentford Health Centre, Boston Manor Rd, Brentford TW8 8DS	<a href="mailto:hrch.bcg@nhs.net">hrch.bcg@nhs.net</a>
Kensington & Chelsea	Central London Community Health (CLCH)	Colville Health Centre, 51 Kensington Park Road, London, W11 1PA	<a href="mailto:clcht.clchbcginners@nhs.net">clcht.clchbcginners@nhs.net</a>
Westminster	Central London Community Health (CLCH)	Lisson Grove Health centre, Gateforth Street, London, NW8 8EG	<a href="mailto:clcht.clchbcginners@nhs.net">clcht.clchbcginners@nhs.net</a>

Infant residence borough	Community BCG provider	Clinic address(es)	Referral contact details
<b>North &amp; East London</b>			
Barking & Dagenham	NELFT NHS Foundation Trust	Child & family centre, 79 Axe St, Barking, Essex, IG11 7LZ	<a href="mailto:nem-tr.NELCSCchildrensimmunisations@nhs.net">nem-tr.NELCSCchildrensimmunisations@nhs.net</a>
Barnet	Central London Community Health (CLCH)	Mill Hill Clinic, Hartley Avenue, London NW7 2HX	<a href="mailto:clch.harrowandbarnetbcg@nhs.net">clch.harrowandbarnetbcg@nhs.net</a>
Camden	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL)	Belsize Priory Clinic 208 Belsize Road, London NW6 4DX	<a href="mailto:patriciastephens@nhs.net">patriciastephens@nhs.net</a>
Enfield	North Middlesex University Hospital	North Middlesex University Hospital, Sterling Way, London N18 1QX	<a href="mailto:northmid.bcg@nhs.net">northmid.bcg@nhs.net</a>
Hackney	The Lawson Practice	The Lawson Practice 85 Nuttall Street, N1 5HZ	<a href="mailto:lawson.practice@nhs.net">lawson.practice@nhs.net</a>

<b>Infant residence borough</b>	<b>Community BCG provider</b>	<b>Clinic address(es)</b>	<b>Referral contact details</b>
Haringey	Whittington Health	Child Development Centre, M2 Ward, St Ann's Hospital, St Ann's Road, N15 3TH	<a href="mailto:whh-tr.bcgimmunisationreferral@nhs.net">whh-tr.bcgimmunisationreferral@nhs.net</a>
Havering	NELFT NHS Foundation Trust	Child & family centre, 79 Axe street, Barking. Essex, IG11 7LZ	<a href="mailto:nem-tr.NELCSCchildrensimmunisations@nhs.net">nem-tr.NELCSCchildrensimmunisations@nhs.net</a>
Islington	Whittington Health	Northern Health Centre, 580 Holloway road, London N7 6LB	<a href="mailto:whh-tr.bcgimmunisationreferral@nhs.net">whh-tr.bcgimmunisationreferral@nhs.net</a>
Newham	Vaccination UK	Vicarage Lane Health Centre, Stratford, E15 4ES	<a href="mailto:Newham.bcg@nhs.net">Newham.bcg@nhs.net</a>
Redbridge	NELFT NHS Foundation Trust	Newbury Park Health Centre, 40 Perrymans Farm Rd, Newbury Park, IG2 7LE	<a href="mailto:nem-tr.NELCSCchildrensimmunisations@nhs.net">nem-tr.NELCSCchildrensimmunisations@nhs.net</a>
Tower Hamlets	Vaccination UK	Newby place, 21 Newby Place, E14 0EY	<a href="mailto:towerhamlets.bcg@nhs.net">towerhamlets.bcg@nhs.net</a>
Waltham Forest	NELFT NHS Foundation Trust	Chingford Health Centre, 109 York Rd, E4 8LF	<a href="mailto:nem-tr.NELCSCchildrensimmunisations@nhs.net">nem-tr.NELCSCchildrensimmunisations@nhs.net</a>

Infant residence borough	Community BCG provider	Clinic address(es)	Referral contact details
<b>South West London</b>			
Croydon	Croydon Health	Croydon University Hospital, The Willows, Ground Floor, Yellow Zone, Woodcroft Wing, 530 London Road Croydon CR7 7YE	<a href="mailto:CH-TR.croydonbcg@nhs.net">CH-TR.croydonbcg@nhs.net</a>
Kingston	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)	The Richard Mayo Centre, Eden Street, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 1HZ	<a href="mailto:hrch.bcg@nhs.net">hrch.bcg@nhs.net</a>
Merton	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)	Church Rd Children's Centre, 243 Church Rd, CR4 3LS	<a href="mailto:hrch.bcg@nhs.net">hrch.bcg@nhs.net</a>
Richmond	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)	Whitton Community Centre, Percy Rd, Whitton, TW2 6JL	<a href="mailto:hrch.bcg@nhs.net">hrch.bcg@nhs.net</a>

Infant residence borough	Community BCG provider	Clinic address(es)	Referral contact details
Sutton	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)	Trinity Church, Cheam Rd, Sutton SM11DZ	<a href="mailto:hrch.bcg@nhs.net">hrch.bcg@nhs.net</a>
Wandsworth	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)	Yvonne Carr Children's Centre, 2 Thessaly Rd, SW8 4HT	<a href="mailto:hrch.bcg@nhs.net">hrch.bcg@nhs.net</a>

Infant residence borough	Community BCG provider	Clinic address(es)	Referral contact details
<b>South East London</b>			
Bexley	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)	Belvedere Community Centre, Mitchell Close, Belvedere DA17 6AA	<a href="mailto:hrch.bcg@nhs.net">hrch.bcg@nhs.net</a>
Bromley	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)	1A High Street, Chislehurst, BR7 5AB	<a href="mailto:hrch.bcg@nhs.net">hrch.bcg@nhs.net</a>
Greenwich	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare (HRCH)	Brookhill Children's Centre, 42 Brumwell Ave, SE18 6AB Sherrington Children's Centre, 14 Sherrington Road, SE7 7JW	<a href="mailto:hrch.bcg@nhs.net">hrch.bcg@nhs.net</a>
Southwark	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	Lister Practice SE15 5LJ	<a href="mailto:gst-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net">gst-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net</a>



Infant residence borough	Community BCG provider	Clinic address(es)	Referral contact details
Lewisham	Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust	<p>Kaleidoscope, 32 Rushey Green, SE6 4JF</p> <p>Lee Health Centre, 2 Handen Road, SE12 8NP</p> <p>Waldron Health centre, Amersham Vale, SE14 6LD</p>	<a href="mailto:LH.immunisation@nhs.net">LH.immunisation@nhs.net</a>
Lambeth	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	<p>Gracefield Gardens Health and Social Care Centre, 2-8 Gracefield Gardens, London, SW16 2ST</p> <p>Mawbey Brough Health Centre, SW8 2UD</p> <p>West Norwood Health &amp; Leisure Centre SE27 0DF</p>	<a href="mailto:gst-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net">gst-tr.immunisationteam@nhs.net</a>