

The National Child Measurement Programme

Overview:

Virgin Care Services Limited is delivering the National Child Measurement Programme on behalf of Public Health England and the local authority. The programme was set up in line with the government's strategy to tackle obesity, and to inform local planning and delivery of services for children, gather population-level data to allow analysis of trends in growth patterns and obesity, increase public and professional understanding of weight issues in children and be a vehicle for engaging with children and families about healthy lifestyles and weight issues. Heights and weights are measured and used to calculate a Body Mass Index (BMI) centile for reception year and year 6 children. The measurement process is overseen by trained Virgin Care healthcare professionals in schools. Before the programme starts each school year, local authorities write to the parents and carers of all children eligible for measurement to inform them of the programme. Parents or carers can choose to withdraw their child from the process by responding to the letter.

What information is collected and how it is used:

- Your child's date of measurement, sex and date of birth are used to calculate your child's weight category.
- Your child's name, date of birth and NHS Number are used to link your child's measurements in Reception and Year 6. Other data sets may also be linked such as your child's dental survey results or any visits to hospital they may have had. Linking your child's information in this way helps us to understand how and why the weight status of children is changing, and how this affects children's health.
- Your child's ethnicity and address are used to help understand some of the reasons for the difference and changes in child weight across England.
- Your address is required to send you your child's feedback letter. This will include your child's measurements together with information about healthy eating, being active and related activities available in your area.

All the information collected about you is treated confidentially and held securely. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children.

Who do we share your data with:

All relevant Child measurement data will be shared with the parents or carers of the individual child but could potentially also be shared with health care professionals involved in the child's care as it will be recorded on the child's record. The data will also be submitted to NHS Digital for reporting reasons (anonymised data only), and all return are collated and validated centrally. The information collected about your child will also be shared by NHS Digital with Public Health England but in anonymised form only. This means Public Health England will not be able to identify your child. Public Health England is responsible for working to protect and improve the nation's health.

Both NHS Digital and Public Health England 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 Digital or Public Health England that identifies your child.

De-personalised information from the National Child Measurement Programme may also be shared by NHS Digital 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 Digital only ever shares information for research with the approval of an independent group of experts.

We will share information with the Child Health Information Service (CHIS) provided in-house by Virgin Care. CHIS is an NHS commissioned service which is responsible for collation data from various organisations for all children aged 0 – 19 that are either residents or registered with a GP Practice in a specified area, into a single Child Health Record including Child Health Measurement data.

The information will be stored on our local child health record (Clinical System) which is available to the GP and other health professionals (Virgin Care providers) involved in your child's care.

National Opt-Out Programme:

Please note that the information collected about you when you use our services can also be used and provided to other organisations for purposes beyond individual care, for instance to help with improving the quality and standards of care provided, research into the development of new treatments, preventing illness and diseases and other. This will only ever take place if there is a clear legal basis to use this information. However, you have a choice about whether you want your confidential patient information to be used in this way. If you do choose to opt-out your confidential patient information will still be used to support your individual care. To find out more or to register your choice to opt out, please visit www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters. Please note that we have not provided any immunisation data for this purpose in the at least two previous financial years.