



Public Health and Primary Care Commissioning
NHS England (London Region)
1st Floor
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
SE1 8UG

21 July 2022

Dear Head teacher,

Subject: Flu vaccination campaign for years 7, 8 and 9

We are writing to update you on changes to the national flu vaccination programme which are relevant to your school. We have recently been informed that the flu programme will now include the school years 7, 8 and 9 from September this year.

Early information from the flu season in Australia, shows flu has been circulating earlier than expected and has been affecting younger age groups, therefore DHSC has taken steps to include these age groups in the 2022/23 vaccination campaign.

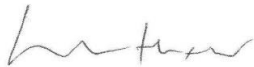
Sessions for flu vaccination have already been planned and confirmed for primary schools so providers will be working with you to arrange additional dates to ensure vaccination can be offered to your students. It is likely that this will be from November onward once additional vaccine supply is available.

We would be very grateful if you could remind parents that their children are entitled to free flu vaccination on the NHS. This vaccine will be provided by a school aged vaccination team that visits the school and is given as a nasal spray. This form of the vaccine is very easy to administer and is especially well suited to preventing onward spread of infection.

The vaccine protects the child against the four main strains of influenza predicted to be in circulation this winter. Young children catch influenza very easily. Children can spread the infection for up to 7 days, which is longer than in adults, therefore vaccinating children reduces the risk of influenza for family members, teaching staff and other children.

In school, children will be mixing with large numbers of other children in a confined environment, which increases the risk of germs (virus and bacteria alike) spreading. Vaccination builds children's immunity to protect against illnesses. Vaccines stop influenza germs being spread, thus protecting the very vulnerable children and those in the wider community who may not have, or may not be able to develop, immunity.

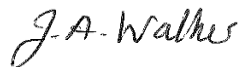
Thank you in advance for your support



Will Huxter

Director – Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning

NHS England Primary Care & Public Health Commissioning (London Region)



Jacqueline Walker

Operational Director – Covid-19 and Influenza Immunisation Programmes

NHS England - London Region



Simon Hailstone FFPH FRSPH

Consultant in Public Health
NHS England Primary Care & Public Health Commissioning (London Region)