

Your Growing Healthy Team are here for all children and young people, providing support, encouraging healthy lifestyles and protecting those who are most vulnerable.

July 2020

Hipswell C of E Primary School

Dear head teacher and school staff,

INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME FOR 2020

Every year, flu kills thousands of people. The school age flu vaccination programme **helps protect children against flu**, which can be a very unpleasant illness and may lead to complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia. The flu vaccine also helps to prevent transmission of flu to the wider community, including older family members and new born babies who may have weaker immune systems.

As in previous years, our team will be visiting schools in North Yorkshire to deliver this programme. The date we will be visiting your school can be found towards the end of this letter, but please read all the information provided as there are **changes to the programme** and how it will be delivered that we would like you to be aware of.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The childhood immunisation team is pleased to announce that the influenza vaccination programme will be offered to **all children of primary school age**, as was the case in 2019.

ONLINE CONSENT FORM

The childhood immunisation team have been working with schools and parents to improve the online consent form and we are pleased to announce it is a lot smarter and quicker to complete. We will be sending the consent form information once the website is live on the **week commencing 31st August 2020**, to be forwarded on to all parents. **Schools that have previously been supplied with paper consent forms will be online only this year.** Our team are happy to support staff/parents with this transition, so please feel free to get in touch with us if you have any queries regarding this change.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

This winter, more than ever, the school age flu vaccination programme will be a key intervention to protect those at risk, prevent ill-health and **minimise further impact from the COVID-19 pandemic** on the NHS and social care. It is therefore important that we have effective plans in place for delivery of the seasonal flu vaccination programme to all eligible groups in North Yorkshire. Delivering the programme through schools is the best way to ensure the maximum number of children are protected.



We appreciate that this is a particularly challenging time for schools, as they look at ways of increasing education provision from September. However, we are sure you will understand that the flu vaccination programme is an important part of the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and hope you will consider the ways in which your school can proactively facilitate the delivery of this vaccine to **all eligible pupils** in your school.

The safety of children and staff is paramount, so in addition to this letter please see the attached **risk assessment** and **Excel checklist** for school staff. The checklist is intended to help staff track their preparations in the weeks leading up to the session. By following this checklist school staff will be able to minimise disruption and maximise their school's uptake of the flu vaccine.

FLU IMMUNISATIONS DATE

We will be visiting **Hipswell C of E Primary School** to deliver the flu immunisation programme on:

Friday 20th November 2020
at 9:00 AM

Note: Our team will arrive approximately 30 minutes before the stated start time in order set up and ensure minimal disruption to the school routine.

If you have any specific queries regarding delivery of the programme during the pandemic please email the clinical lead on loisalderson@nhs.net

Kind regards,



Lois Alderson

Clinical Lead for Childhood Immunisations for North Yorkshire and City of York

