

Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership
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3 Piccadilly Place
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Email: england.gmsit@nhs.net

07/10/2020

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2020/21

I would like to thank you for your continued support in promoting the childrens flu vaccination programme to the parents of children in your care and protecting them, their families and communities against the flu virus.

Flu vaccination is available for all eligible children:

- Those clinically at risk from 6 months up to 18 years.
- Those aged 2 and 3 years old on 31st August 2020 can access the vaccination at their GP practice.
- School children in reception to year 7, will be offered vaccination at school.

Vaccination is the best protection against the flu virus. With Covid-19 in circulation it is more important than ever to reduce the number of people becoming ill with flu this winter. Vaccination of eligible children not only provides protection to the children themselves but for the wider community, reducing the number of absence days from nursery, GP consultations and hospital admissions. This will ultimately support our NHS key workers who are currently responding to the Covid19 pandemic as we approach winter.

Vaccination is safe and the most effective way to protect children from vaccine preventable illness such as flu and measles. Appointments can be made via the GP practice. The majority of side effects from vaccinations are mild and don't last long. It is therefore recommended that children and infants are not routinely excluded from attendance at their child care setting following vaccination.

This years flu season has commenced and I would like to ask for your continued support in promoting the childhood flu vaccination programme.

You can find NHS flu vaccination campaign promotional materials including downloadable posters and leaflets within the following websites:

www.nhs.uk/child-flu

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine-questions-and-answers/>

www.sharegoodtimesnotflu.co.uk

For more information on vaccinations, please see the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/>

If you have any further questions, please contact your local Public Health Team or Infection Control Team via your local authority lead.

Yours faithfully



Christine Khiroya
Nurse Consultant with responsibility for Screening & Immunisation