



10th August 2020

Dear Headteacher, Immunisation Leads in Schools

INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION UPDATE

Every year the School Nursing Service provides the Influenza Vaccination to all pupils in primary schools, this year due to the pandemic, the Department of Health has advised that all Year 7 pupils should also receive this vaccination (see attached further guidance).

Influenza (often referred to as flu) is an acute viral infection of the respiratory tract characterised by a fever, chills, headache, muscle and joint pain, and fatigue. Flu is easily transmitted and even people with mild or no symptoms can still infect others. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic ensuring that all pupils are vaccinated against influenza will be more important than ever, it provides community protection as well as protection for the children.

We recognise the difficulties faced by schools at the present time and would ensure minimum disruption, all the nurses will be wearing PPE (aprons, gloves, face masks and shields) to protect the school community and themselves and we will also ensure the room is cleaned appropriately on leaving. We have a larger workforce to administer the vaccine and having reviewed the school guidance can still vaccinate in a large hall due to us wearing PPE and changing it between every pupil.

To reduce impact on schools we are also introducing an online consent form which will be ready to share with pupils in the next few weeks, this meaning you don't have to send any paperwork out with pupils. We would really appreciate it if you could send this link out to all year 7 pupils on our behalf.

We have been informed today that the vaccine is available from 2nd September, primary schools have already been booked in for their sessions from October therefore we would like to book your school in September if possible. Please could you email myself to arrange this if possible as Leisa Gaskell (Immunisation Coordinator) is on leave until September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support over the years, North East Lincolnshire has one of the highest uptake rates for school based vaccinations across the country and we feel this is due to our partnership with local schools.

Yours sincerely



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