



School Health Service Immunisation Team

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To Parents of Children in Reception, Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in Lewisham Schools

Dear Parent or Guardian

Flu vaccination for children in Reception, Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

From October 2018 all children in Reception, Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be offered flu vaccination through a nasal spray. This extension of the national flu immunisation programme to children is based on the advice of independent experts.

Your child will be offered a flu vaccine that is given as a simple spray up the nose. It is painless, very quick, and serious side effects are uncommon. This vaccination programme is designed to protect your child against flu which can be an unpleasant illness and, although rarely, sometimes cause serious complications. By having the flu vaccination, children are also less likely to pass the virus on to friends and family. This will help to protect those who are at greater risk from flu including infants, older people and those with an underlying health condition. The flu vaccine provides protection against the strains that are predicted to circulate in the coming season. These strains may change from year to year which is why we recommend vaccination every year.

A leaflet explaining the programme is enclosed and includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate.

Parents/carers are not required to be present in school during their child's immunisation.

Please complete the enclosed consent form (one for each child, please) and return it to the school as soon as possible, so your child can be given the vaccine. Please note if the consent form is returned after this date your child may not be able to have the vaccine. You should inform the nurses on the day of the vaccine before if your child has been wheezy or there is any change in their asthma medication.

Please contact the Lewisham School Health Immunisation Team at the Downham Health and Leisure centre on 0203 049 1897 if you require any further assistance.

We look forward to receiving your child's forms. Please remember to return the consent form even if you DO NOT consent to the vaccination for your child, explaining the reason for your decision. This will help us in the development of the flu vaccination programme in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Danny Ruta
Director for Public Health Lewisham

Zipora Govere
School Health Service Lead
Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust