

**Dorset School Age Immunisations Service**

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Operating hours Mon-Fri 09:00 -17:00

05 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

**FLU VACCINATION OFFER TO CHILDREN IN RECEPTION TO YEAR 7**

We are pleased to confirm that the flu vaccination will be offered in schools this Autumn/Winter to help protect your child. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu. With COVID-19 in circulation it is more important than ever to reduce the number of those becoming ill with flu this winter to help protect them and the NHS.

Details regarding the vaccination session for your child's school are as follows:

**School:** The Abbey Primary School, Shaftesbury

**Date of Session:** Thursday 10 December 2020

**Unique Session Code:** 7cgcva

**Please complete the online form at least two working days prior to the date of the session at school to ensure that we have time to check the form and contact you if there are any queries.**

If you have a child at another school you will receive a separate letter with a different code for that school.

Following feedback from parents and schools, we have simplified the process for providing consent online.

This service is provided on behalf on Dorset HealthCare by InHealthCare

- Please complete the online consent form using the following link:  
<https://links.inhealthcare.co.uk/dorset-child-fluimms>
- InHealthCare will send a verification code to your email address, to ensure we have your correct details.
- You will be asked a series of health questions for your child. There is space to add further information if your child has a health condition or additional needs.
- We will contact you if we require any further information. Please provide a daytime telephone number if possible.

- If you miss the deadline you can still complete a form but will be offered an appointment for a catch-up clinic at a community venue.
- If you decide you do not want your child to be vaccinated against flu, there is a box on the consent form for you to complete and please do tell us why.

If you have any problems completing the online consent form, please check our website: [www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/schoolageimms](http://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/schoolageimms) and complete the Contact Us form. For any other queries regarding your child's vaccination, please e-mail us at [dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net)

For children in care you are most likely to have delegated authority to sign consent for the immunisation. If you are uncertain or you do not have delegated authority please speak to the child's social worker as soon as possible.

The vaccination is free and is a quick and simple spray up the nose. Even if your child had it last year, it is recommended to have the flu vaccine again this year as the strains included vary from year to year.

While COVID-19 is in circulation, the healthcare team and school will follow guidelines to ensure children are safe when being offered the vaccine. The nursing team will be wearing uniforms and personal protective equipment (PPE) for the immunisation session as per the guidelines from Public Health England. We are developing a social story for children with pictures of nurses in PPE, and we will be sharing these with your child's school.

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme is (attached to this email / available here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/806857/PE\\_Protecting\\_Child\\_Against\\_Flu\\_leaflet.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806857/PE_Protecting_Child_Against_Flu_leaflet.pdf) and includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate.

If your child is unable to have the nasal flu vaccination, we will contact you to discuss your child having the flu injection at a community clinic instead.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

Yours faithfully



Angela Cosser  
Immunisation Clinical Lead  
Dorset School Age Immunisations Service

For further information see: [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)