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To Heads of Primary Schools

Email:
Contact: Jane Banbury,
Commissioning Managing
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Date: 17 November 2106

Dear Head

CHILD FLU IMMUNISATION WITHIN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

I am writing to you to thank you for your school's co-operation in supporting the Hertfordshire School Health Service in delivering the child flu immunisation to years 1, 2 and 3.

Some schools have already had the service come in to complete the immunisations and others will be seeing the school nursing team in the next few weeks.

The following support and welcome from schools ensures that the immunisation session is completed quickly and within a calm environment. This is being achieved by:

- school staff welcoming and accommodating the service by providing a suitable room for at least 5 nurses;
- allowing use of wifi from the school which ensured nurses were able to check children's health history and update the immunisation on the child health records;
- allowing a teaching assistant or member of staff who knows the children to accompany them to the session to put the children at ease;
- schools showing the short Flu Hero video to children before the immunisation session helped to educate and put at ease the children and allowed them the opportunity to discuss it with school nurses.

Hertfordshire Community Trust NHS School Health service has eight weeks to deliver the immunisation to 480 primary schools within Hertfordshire. To date 11,000 children have been immunised in Hertfordshire.

Your support is vital to ensuring the completion of the programme which contributes to the health and wellbeing of children leading to fewer A & E attendances and missed days from school. The infographic below illustrates the benefits of the programme.

Flu vaccine pilot success

In flu vaccine pilot areas (2014/15) where primary school age children were given the nasal spray vaccine we saw:



Public Health
England



↓ 94%

Primary school aged children: GP influenza like illness consultation rates 94% lower



↓ 74%

Primary school aged children: A&E respiratory attendances 74% lower



↓ 93%

Primary school aged children: Hospital admissions due to confirmed influenza 93% lower



↓ 59%

Adults: GP influenza like illness consultation rates 59% lower

Uptake and impact of vaccinating school age children against influenza during a season with circulation of drifted influenza A and B strains, England, 2014/15

Yours sincerely

Jim McManus
Director of Public Health

cc: *Jane Banbury, Commissioning Manager, Public Health Service*
Gill Goodlad, AD Health Protection, Public Health Service
Sue Beck, Head of CYP Services, Public Health Service