

Dorset School Age Immunisations Service

Acorn Building
St Leonards Hospital
Ringwood Road
Dorset
BH24 2DW

Tel: 01425 891162

e-mail: dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net

dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk

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

05 October 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

FLU VACCINATION OFFER TO CHILDREN IN YEAR 7 TO YEAR 11

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 still in circulation it is really important to reduce the number of those becoming ill with flu this winter to help protect them, the NHS and social care. Research also shows that if you get both flu and COVID-19 at the same time you may be more seriously ill.

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

School: St Peter's Catholic School

Date of Session: Monday 18 October 2021 – Thursday 21 October 2021

Unique Session Code: 5hxazc

Please complete the online form by: Thursday 14 October 2021

This will ensure we are able to check it and contact you about any queries before we come into school. If the form is submitted too late for us to be able to do this, your child will not be able to be immunised at school, and you will need to make a clinic appointment in a community venue instead.

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

This service is provided on behalf of Dorset HealthCare by InHealthCare

- Please complete the online consent form using the following link:
<https://links.inhealthcare.co.uk/dorset-flu>
- 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 and complete the Contact Us form. For any other queries regarding your child's vaccination, please e-mail us at dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net

If you are a foster carer or care for a Child in Care (formerly Looked After Child) from Dorset or BCP Local Authority, and have delegated authority, please complete the online consent form. If you do not have delegated authority, your child's social worker will contact you regarding completion of the health questions. If you have a Child in Care from another Local Authority please contact your child's social worker to discuss 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 have a social story for children with pictures of nurses in PPE, and we are able to share these with your child's school.

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme is (attached to this email / available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters/protect-yourself-against-flu-information-for-those-in-school-years-7-to-11>

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 Immunisation Service

For further information see: www.nhs.uk/child-flu