

E: [SeasonalFluProgramme@gov.scot](mailto:SeasonalFluProgramme@gov.scot)

Directors of Education  
Independent Schools  
Grant-Aided Schools

16 August 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**SEASONAL FLU IMMUNISATION - CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL PROGRAMME 2023/24  
– COHORT CONFIRMATION**

We are writing to provide you with information about the Childhood and Schools' based Seasonal Flu Immunisation Programme for the 2023/24 season that will offer vaccination to both primary and secondary school pupils. This includes both local authority and independent and grant-aided school settings.

We would like to begin by thanking all those involved in assisting the work of the NHS to offer the flu vaccination to all school age children and helping to protect against flu virus in 2022/23 season.

Delivery of the flu immunisation programme will again provide protection for those at risk of infection with seasonal flu viruses. It is therefore essential that we build on the success of last year's programme to prevent ill health, reducing transmission and minimise further impact on the NHS and social care services. Letters from Scotland's Chief Medical Officer with full details for the programme have been issued and can be viewed at:

Adult Programme: [CMO \(2023\)05](#)

Childhood and School Programme: [CMO \(2023\) 09](#)

Last year was the second time secondary school children were offered flu vaccination and it is important that parents understand the importance of vaccinating their children as well as the concern that an outbreak may cause to a family. Secondary school children will again be included in the Seasonal Flu Childhood and Schools' based programme for Autumn/Winter 2023/24.

Following consideration, the JCVI recommended that expanding flu vaccination to secondary school pupils would be cost effective, and provide further resilience to the NHS and social care services during the winter months. This was implemented in primary schools and from 2021/22, the programme was expanded in Scotland to include all secondary school pupils who are included again this year.

Universal usage of the digital Vaccine Management Tool (VMT) to record school vaccination events in 2023/24 is essential to achieve improved data quality for reporting purposes and accurate vaccination records. NHS teams will have VMT on digital devices requiring Wi-Fi access. It would be extremely helpful, if wherever it is practicably possible, that vaccinators are able to access a Wi-Fi connection in schools when offering flu vaccinations.

NHS Boards will continue to work closely with your school Headteachers to minimise any disruption to your schools. They will ensure that all children will have the opportunity to receive the flu vaccine in a timely manner.

To support the programme in schools, Public Health Scotland will provide online flu vaccine education resources for school staff again this year. Resources will include:

- A briefing document explaining 'Flu immunisation for school children in Scotland'
- An online video that can be shown to all school pupils to help them prepare for the flu immunisation sessions
- A sample flu vaccine invitation letter (contained in the consent pack sent home with pupils)
- School flu vaccine leaflets (contained in the consent pack sent home with pupils)
- Flu vaccine consent form guidance
- Translated flu vaccine consent form guidance – available in 18 languages, including Polish, Arabic, Urdu and Traditional Chinese.

Again this year there are materials specifically aimed at secondary school pupils, including a leaflet (within consent packs for secondary school pupils) and an animation, which includes information about self-consent.

Posters, leaflets and a cover letter will be delivered to all primary and secondary schools for the attention of the Headteacher in accordance with the schedule agreed between both parties.

The online flu vaccine education resources will be available to download from August from Public Health Scotland's website at [www.publichealthscotland.scot/flueducationpack](http://www.publichealthscotland.scot/flueducationpack). We hope that you find the resources useful.

Once again, a heartfelt thank you for your help in providing this important protection to children and young people attending schools in Scotland. Your support and the essential role you play in helping to achieve the success of the Childhood and School Flu Programme is valued.

Yours faithfully,

**Public Health Capabilities Division  
Scottish Government**