



Public Health and Primary Care Commissioning  
NHS England (London Region)  
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Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
SE1 8UG

21 July 2022

Dear Parent, Guardian or Carer,

**Subject: Flu vaccination campaign for Years 7, 8 and 9**

We are writing to update you on changes to the national flu vaccination programme which are relevant to your child's school. We have recently been informed that the flu programme will now include the school Years 7, 8 and 9 from September this year.

Early information from the flu season in Australia, shows flu has been circulating earlier than expected and has been affecting younger age groups, therefore the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has taken steps to include these age groups in the 2022/23 vaccination campaign.

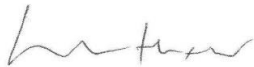
Sessions for flu vaccination have already been planned and confirmed for primary schools so providers will be working with the School's Headteacher to arrange additional dates to ensure the vaccination can be offered to your child. It is likely that this will be from November onward once additional vaccine supply is available.

Your child is entitled to free flu vaccination on the NHS. This vaccine will be provided by a school-aged vaccination team that visits the School and is given as a nasal spray. This form of the vaccine is very easy to administer and is especially well suited to preventing onward spread of infection.

The vaccine protects the child against the four main strains of influenza predicted to be in circulation this winter. Young children catch influenza very easily. Children can spread the infection for up to 7 days, which is longer than in adults, therefore vaccinating children reduces the risk of influenza for family members, teaching staff and other children.

In school, children will be mixing with large numbers of other children in a confined environment, which increases the risk of germs (virus and bacteria alike) spreading. Vaccination builds children's immunity to protect against illnesses. Vaccines stop influenza germs being spread, thus protecting the very vulnerable children and those in the wider community who may not have, or may not be able to develop, immunity.

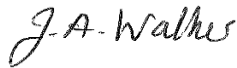
Thank you in advance for your support.



Will Huxter

**Director – Primary Care and  
Public Health  
Commissioning**

NHS England Primary Care &  
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(London Region)



Jacqueline Walker

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