

A university teaching and research-active Trust

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[www.leicspart.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk)

December 2021

Dear parent/carer,

### **Changes to Flu vaccination programme – new date for your school**

We have had to revise our school flu programme dates this year and will now be coming to your child's school on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to administer the nasal flu vaccination.

Since starting the school vaccination programme this year, we have faced unprecedented demands and unfortunately had to postpone some sessions and revise our initial plans for flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. We apologise that we have had to do this and understand how disappointing it has been for the young people and parents and carers affected.

We are committed to vaccinating children and young people as quickly and smoothly as possible within this new flu schedule. We will also continue to work with the GPs and community pharmacists, who specialise in vaccinations, that we enlisted for support in October to bolster our programme.

Flu is caused by the influenza virus and can be a very unpleasant illness for children. It can also lead to serious problems, such as bronchitis and pneumonia. Children can catch and spread flu easily, so vaccinating them also protects others who are vulnerable to flu, such as babies and older people.

We want to assure you, that all young people with parental consent will be offered the opportunity to be vaccinated at school within the flu season.

Please note you do not need to do anything about consent forms you have already completed – we will keep these on file for the new session date. If you haven't completed your consent form yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you need help completing it, you can call [communityimmunisations.service@nhs.net](mailto:communityimmunisations.service@nhs.net) for assistance. The link for your school will be closed the working day before the scheduled session to enable the service to prepare for the session.

Our staff have worked extremely hard to set up this vaccination programme at speed and we want to thank you and your children for your flexibility and patience as we deliver this programme, alongside COVID-19 vaccinations, across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland schools.

In the meantime, if you or your child have any questions about the vaccine, we encourage you to visit the following sites for more information:

- Health for Teens (for ages 12 and above):  
<https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/health/flu/flu-just-the-facts/>
- Health for Kids (for children in primary school):  
<https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/illness/flu/>
- NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>

You can also watch our Flu Heroes animation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jHWwm8NQUw>

Thank you once again for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Helen Thompson  
Director of FYPC and LD Services  
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust