



Autumn Term 2016 – Top tips for schools

Seasonal Flu Programme for primary school-aged children in Year 1, 2 & 3

Background to the programme

From October 2016, all children in England of school years 1, 2 & 3 will be offered flu vaccination in the form of a nasal spray. Across Lancashire, this will be offered via IntraHealth who have been commissioned to deliver the programme. The reason that the programme is being offered in schools is because school-based immunisation programmes provide a highly effective means of delivering important health programmes to school-aged children, ensuring good uptake. Children in reception year will also be offered vaccination delivered by their GP.



Flu can be a very unpleasant illness in children. Annual immunisation will not only provide important protection to individual children, but will also reduce the spread of flu to their families and the wider community e.g. protecting younger siblings, grandparents and those who are at increased risk of becoming seriously ill from the flu virus. The continued rollout to new cohorts of primary school-age children is based upon advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), an independent expert committee which advises the Government on vaccination policies.

Flu vaccination benefits to schools

- Helps to protect children against flu, which in turn, may help to protect other pupils and staff and reduce absenteeism rates;
- Promotes a healthy working environment in schools and the wider community, including amongst parents;
- The engagement in public health programmes, including vaccination, will help to evidence criteria relating to personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE);
- Provides an opportunity to integrate learning about the benefits of vaccination into the school curriculum including history and science.