## Vaccinations Changes for 2019-20

### Seasonal Flu Programme – For Primary Schools

From September 2019, the flu programme has been extended to include all Year 6 students. This means that for the first time all children at primary school will be offered a seasonal flu vaccine.

Flu is a very common viral infection and children with flu have the same symptoms as adults – including fever, chills, aching muscles, headache, stuffy nose, dry cough and a sore throat. Some children develop a very high fever or complications of flu, such as bronchitis, pneumonia and a painful ear infection. Evidence shows that healthy children under the age of 5 are more likely to have to be admitted to hospital with flu than any other age group.

Therefore the universal schools programme is vital to not only protect children but also help to limit the spread of the virus to others who maybe more at clinical risk such as elderly grandparents, or those with a chronic condition.

The vaccination is administered via a nasal spray and most children only need a single dose (consisting of half a dose in each nostril).

As with previous years, the School Immunisation Team will be visiting all primary schools to offer the vaccine. The team will liaise with schools to arrange mutually suitable dates and as with last year, parental consent will be via the ‘e-consent’.

Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), special schools as well as identified schools with a historic, lower uptake of the vaccine will be visited twice. The team will also be holding catch up clinics across Suffolk to ensure that as many children as possible can access the free vaccine this winter.

To help, if schools could give the team as large a room as they possibly can for a whole day. Due to high numbers of children to be immunised in a short space of time, the team will be bringing several nurses and an administrator to every session this year. Additionally any promotion on school’s social media or website of the vaccination clinic will help in keeping parents informed as we try to vaccinate as many children as possible against the flu virus.

Further information including leaflets and posters can be accessed from: [https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/)
**Human Papillomavirus (HPV) – For Secondary Schools**

From September 2019, boys in school Year 8 will be offered HPV vaccine for the first time. The vaccine will be offered to boys, in addition to girls, as part of the routine school aged schedule in England following the government’s announcement in July 2018 to include HPV vaccination of boys. This was based on the recommendations of the benefits in helping prevent certain types of cancer. Globally approximately 5% of all cancers are linked to the HPV virus. This includes cervical, penile, anal and genital cancers and some cancers of the head and neck – all of which the vaccine helps to protect against.

As with the girls programme, which has been running since 2008, the vaccination is given in the arm and students will need two doses to be fully protected. The first injection is given in Year 8 and the second one usually 6 to 12 months later. Students will be informed when they are due for the second dose.

Further information including leaflets and posters can be accessed from: [https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine/)

**Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Catch up campaign – For Secondary Schools**

Measles is a highly infectious viral disease which can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia and encephalitis (*inflammation of the brain*). In addition, measles infection damages and suppresses the whole immune system. This means that people who have had measles are more likely to catch other infectious diseases. This effect can last for as much as three years after they recover from measles.

Most measles cases have been in people who are not vaccinated, especially young people aged 15 and over who missed out on MMR vaccination when they were younger. As measles is highly infectious, if a child who is not immunised encounters someone who has measles, it is very likely that they will catch the disease and risk developing serious complications.

The School Immunisation Team is targeting Year 10 students who have missed either one or both doses of the MMR vaccine. Their parents are being invited by personal letter to consent to vaccination, which will be given during the spring and summer terms during the team’s regular school sessions. The team will also offer opportunistic vaccination to other children and young people in Year 10.