

October 2020

Flu Vaccinations

Please take time to read this excerpt from an email sent to school on behalf of the Immunisation and Child Health Team:

I am writing to all schools with regards to the flu campaign and parental concerns that have been raised regarding “shedding” of the virus from the vaccine and keeping children out of school for a certain period following the vaccination session in school.

I thought it would be helpful to send the following link to a leaflet from Public Health England for schools that can help you to advise parents.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/902790/Flu_vaccination_programme_briefing_for_school_team_and_headteachers.pdf

There is information on the back page with regards to this issues and clearly states “The nasal spray vaccine has a good safety record and unvaccinated contacts are not at risk of catching flu from the vaccine, either through being in the same room where flu vaccine has been given or by being in contact with a recently vaccinated individual”.

In addition it outlines that “excluding children from school during the period when the vaccine is being offered, or in the following weeks, is not necessary. The only exception to this would be the tiny number of children who are extremely immunocompromised (for example those who have just had a bone marrow transplant)”.

Please also find below the link to a leaflet for parents which you could direct them to, or forward on to them:-

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907433/Protecting_Child_Against_Flu_DL_leaflet_2020.pdf

We hope that you are able to find answers to any questions you have with regard to the vaccination programme in the leaflets you are signposted to above.