

Sent by Email

21/07/2020

Dear Colleague

The national school aged immunisation programme 2019/20 and 2020/21

I am writing to update you on the national school aged immunisation programme for 2019/20 and 2020/21 and to ask for your continued support with the delivery of this critical programme. It is more important than ever that we have robust plans in place for this flu season in order to protect those at risk and minimise the impact on the NHS and social care. School aged immunisation providers across the country have immunisation backlogs, as a result of COVID, and addressing this is key so that young people are given the protection that the HPV, MenACWY and Td/IPV booster vaccinations offer.

Flu vaccination is one of the most effective interventions we have to reduce pressure on the health and social care system this winter and therefore planning is underway to expand the 2020/21 programme. This includes a likely extension of the programme to all children who will be attending year 7 in the 2020/21 academic year, with an expectation that the ambition will increase on last year's ambition of 65% vaccinated. A successful flu vaccination programme has added benefits for schools in terms of reducing pupil and staff absence which is another reason why vaccination should be maximised.

To give the best possible chance of achieving this we would like all aspects of the school aged programme, including catch up opportunities for those having missed their vaccination in 2019/20 and the new year 7 cohort, to be delivered in a school setting (with alternative settings for those children not attending school) by our existing highly experienced school aged immunisation providers.

We recognise an addition of year 7 may present some challenges in terms of new schools being part of the flu programme although these schools will have been previously involved in the delivery of other adolescent vaccinations. We also understand that there will be additional constraints around potential school closures, changes in the school day and infection control measures being in place that will need to be considered. The Screening and Immunisation Team are available to help support providers and share best practice from elsewhere if needed and can be contacted via email at england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net if you have any specific questions.

To support this work we are asking you and your teams to encourage schools to actively host vaccination sessions in any discussions you have with them. We would



also welcome the opportunity to be linked in with any meeting or forums where these issues may be discussed so that we can answer any questions or concerns schools may have.

On a final note one of the concerns that schools have identified previously is that of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), in particular on the use and sharing of children's personal information. The key message is that GDPR does not change the ways in which young people's personal information is used and shared by schools for the purpose of providing vaccinations and the sharing of personal information remains lawful under the GDPR.

If you would like to discuss this letter, please contact the Screening and Immunisation Team at england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Biggs', written in a cursive style.

Ian Biggs
Director Primary Care and Public Health
South West