



Dear Parent/Carer

Yearly flu vaccination. If your child has not received this very important vaccination since September 2020, please could you call 03007900597 to book in to one of our remaining drive thru clinics.

Achieving high flu vaccination rates is even more essential this year, to protect our children and communities during the COVID pandemic, and to prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed this winter.

This vaccination programme is in place to help protect your child against flu. Respiratory viruses peak after Christmas so now is a good time to get the vaccine. Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu. This vaccination is free and recommended for young children. Last year, most children offered the immunisation in schools had the vaccine; the vaccine remains unchanged

We thought it would be helpful to share some answers to questions that parents have been asking:

Does the flu vaccine contain COVID vaccine?

No. The vaccine only protects against flu.

Covid vaccination programme is an entirely different and new programme which is going to start from December 2020. It is an intramuscular injection to be given 2 doses 4 weeks apart, starting with older people above 80 years of age and gradually coming down in age to all people 50 years and above. The priority cohorts are given in guidance published in September 2020 and does not include school children or anyone below 18 years of age.

Can the side effects for flu vaccine be mistaken for COVID infection?

Flu vaccines do not cause a cough, change in taste or smell. Some children may experience a raised temperature however the NHS guidance is that a temperature within 48 hours of vaccination does not in itself need to be considered as a symptom of COVID infection.

For further information see: www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Yours faithfully

EPUT Immunisation Service