

**Confidential**

Head/Teachers and Business Support  
Managers

Date 13 August 2020  
Your Ref HPT/JM/SF  
Our Ref Health Protection Team

Enquiries to: Jess Miller  
Email [Jessica.miller@nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Jessica.miller@nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk)

Dear Head Teacher/Business Support Manager

**Flu nasal spray vaccination programme for primary school children, autumn term 2020**

- Thank you very much for contributing to the success of last year's primary school flu immunisation programme. With the cooperation and support from schools, **70% of primary school children in Lothian were immunised in 2019** – our highest vaccination uptake rate yet despite rescheduling 23 schools due to vaccine delays.
- **Flu vaccination is more important than ever in the context of COVID-19 to decrease pressure on the NHS, and improve the baseline health of the most vulnerable.**
- 20/21 year poses new challenges as you are all very well aware. In line with education planning, we are planning for 100% capacity with 50% contingency plan for delivery of the flu vaccination. PPE requirements will slow the process down somewhat and we anticipate longer sessions. Our Child Health colleagues are in contact with schools individually with details of their proposed session dates.
- **We ask for your help to encourage the return of consent forms. Consent packs will be arriving in schools in the latter part of the week of 10<sup>th</sup> August. Last year, with your help, we achieved our highest ever return rate for consent forms – 82%**
- Our link nurses from the Community Vaccination Team will work with you to achieve as high a return of consent forms as possible. **Your assistance with chasing up return of forms as soon as possible and reminding parents of this via text messages, e-mail, websites, etc. is very valuable.** Some template text is enclosed for this.
- Public Health Scotland has prepared an **online education and resources pack** to use in class; a new version will soon be available to download at: [www.publichealthscotland.scot/flueducationpack](http://www.publichealthscotland.scot/flueducationpack)

**Please send a copy of this letter to your business manager, guidance teacher or others who are involved in the programme.** Should you wish to discuss any aspect in the meantime please don't hesitate to contact us.



Headquarters  
Waverley Gate  
2-4 Waterloo Place  
Edinburgh EH1 3EG

Interim Chair Esther Robertson  
Interim Chief Executive Calum Campbell  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common  
name of Lothian Health Board*

If you have a general enquiry relating to the primary school flu programme in Lothian, please email [Jessica.miller@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Jessica.miller@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk), Vaccination Programme Manager.

If you have a general enquiry regarding primary school flu vaccination, please see [nhs inform pages on primary school flu](#)

If you have queries relating to the school session date, please contact NHS Lothian Community Child Health.

City of Edinburgh	0131 536 0293
East and Midlothian	0131 446 4125
West Lothian	01506 524415

Thank you very much for your support of this public health programme.  
Yours sincerely,



**Dr Lorna Willocks**  
**Immunisation Coordinator**

Enclosures: communication text example

## Communication Text Examples

### Text messages

Flu vaccination consent form packs have been sent home via your child's school bag. Please discuss and return the completed form by XXXX. With COVID 19 around, it is more important than ever to get the flu vaccine.

### School websites and emails

#### Primary School Flu Vaccination

Consent packs are out now for flu vaccination for pupils in P1-P7

With COVID 19 around, it is more important than ever to get the flu vaccine to decrease the pressure on the NHS and protect the health of the most vulnerable including grandparents and family members with underlying health conditions.

The flu nasal spray vaccine for primary school children helps to protect against flu. Flu is a virus; it spreads quickly and can infect children and adults very easily, causing an unpleasant illness which can be serious.

When you receive a consent form pack please complete and sign the consent form and return it to school as soon as possible.

More information about the programme can be found using the following link to the flu vaccination section on the NHS Inform Website [www.nhsinform.scot/childflu](http://www.nhsinform.scot/childflu)

### School Newsletters

#### Primary School Flu Vaccination Programme

With COVID 19 around, it is more important than ever to get the flu vaccine to decrease the pressure on the NHS and protect the health of the most vulnerable including grandparents and family members with underlying health conditions.

The NHS Lothian Community Vaccination Team carries out an annual immunisation programme, which for primary school pupils provides flu nasal spray vaccination in primary schools in the autumn term. Please ensure that you look out for your child's consent form pack and please return the completed and signed form as soon as possible.

For more information, please see <https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/child-flu-vaccine#primary-school-children>