

From the Chief Medical Officer
Professor Dame Sally Davies FRS FMedSci



Department
of Health &
Social Care

To: Early years practitioners

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Dear Colleague

Childhood influenza immunisation programme

I am writing to seek your help in raising awareness of the childhood influenza immunisation programme. Staff working in your sector can play a valuable role in talking to parents and carers about the benefits of influenza vaccination.

In 2013, we started a phased roll-out programme to extend the offer of influenza vaccination to children. The influenza vaccine for most children is quick and painless nasal spray and not an injection. Not only does the influenza vaccine help to protect the children themselves, but by reducing the spread of influenza it will also help protect family members and others in the community. The influenza vaccine also promotes a healthy environment in nurseries and preschools by reducing the risk of spread of influenza to others, including staff.

This coming winter, all children aged two and three can get the vaccine at their general practice, and children in reception and school years 1 to 5 in primary school will be offered the influenza vaccine at school.

I would be grateful for your support in helping to publicise the programme. Further information for the early years sector has been produced by Public Health England. This can be found along with materials to give to parents that can be downloaded or ordered for free at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-for-early-years-settings-including-child-minders>

If you would like any further information about the programme please e-mail immunisation@phe.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

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CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER