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|  | Children & Families Services Directorate  School-aged Immunisation Team  Bridgewater Community Healthcare  NHS Foundation Trust  The Health Care Resource Centre,  Oaks Place,  Caldwell Road,  Widnes,  WA8 7GD  Tel: 0151 495 5066  Email: ALWCH.haltonimmsteam@nhs.net |

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**INFLUENZA (Flu) VACCINATION**

Over the last 8 weeks, the annual flu vaccine has being offered to children in school years reception, one, two, three, four and five as part of the NHS childhood vaccination programme.

There is a national ambition to immunise 65% of all children in all school years so that we can maximise the impact of the influenza vaccine. It is important that we offer as many children as possible the vaccination in your child’s school so that we can protect individual children but also so that we reduce the spread of this disease in the local community, protecting younger children, parents and grandparents.

The immunisation team is offering another opportunity for children to receive the flu vaccine if they **did not** receive the vaccination when the immunisation team recently visited your child’s school. If your child has not yet received the vaccine and you would like your child to be immunised, please collect a consent form from your child’s school office and return to school by 7th January 2019. The immunisation team will be returning to school on the 8th Jan 2019. to vaccinate any children who have returned completed consent forms.

The flu vaccine for children is given as a nasal spray. It is needle-free (a big advantage for children). It is quick and painless and will ensure your child is less likely to become ill if they come into contact with the flu virus.

The vaccine used is called Fluenz Tetra. The patient information leaflet for Fluenz tetra is available to view prior to vaccination at:-<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/29109>

**Following return of the consent form please contact the School-aged Immunisation Team should any of the following apply (contact details below):-**

* **Your child has had their asthma medication increased (including inhalers and/or steroid tablets)**
* **Your child is wheezy on the day or in the 3 days prior to flu vaccination**
* **Your child receives their flu vaccination from their GP/chemist/other**
* **You change your mind about your child receiving/not receiving vaccination**

If you have any questions you can contact your School-aged Immunisation Team on Tel No 0151 495 5066.

Yours sincerely,

School-aged Immunisation Team