



Tuesday 21st September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Flu vaccination

You may have received a letter from your GP or NHS England reminding you that it is time for the annual flu vaccinations. This year, children from **Reception – Year 7** are being offered a free flu vaccine to help protect them against the flu and minimise infections. With COVID-19 circulating along with the flu, this vaccine is an important step to help reduce the impact of the flu on the NHS and social care. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. The vaccine is **a nasal spray** which is administered quickly and painlessly. Even if your child had it last year, the type of flu can vary each winter so it is recommended to have the vaccine again this year or they won't be protected.

Some of the benefits of your child having the vaccine include:

- Protects your child from the flu
- Protects you, your family and friends and those vulnerable around you
- Reduces pupil and staff absenteeism rates by reducing the likelihood of flu outbreaks in schools

The flu vaccinations will be administered by the Hackney NHS Healthcare team on **15th October 2021** in school. While COVID-19 is in circulation, the healthcare team and school will follow guidelines to ensure children are safe when being offered the vaccine.

With this letter you will find consent forms and an information leaflet to all children in Reception – Year 6. Please read the form carefully and return to the school office as soon as possible, even if you do not want your child to be vaccinated.

*The vaccinations will only be given to those children whose parents have returned the consent forms **giving consent**. If you **do not want your child to have the flu vaccine**, please return the consent form indicating that you do not give consent, providing a reason.*

The nasal spray contains very small amounts of porcine gelatine. Some people may not accept the use of porcine gelatine in medical products. *For these children, there is an alternative **injectable vaccine** available this year which parents can consent to. Please collect this separate form from the office.*

It is important that every child returns their consent form, **even if they are not having the vaccination** as this will help the NHS plan and improve their service. The healthcare team may contact parents who have provided consent directly, to clarify any medical notes stated on the returned forms.

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

Yours sincerely,

Toni Mason

Headteacher