The Grange School

NHS
Bridgewater
Community Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

September 2023

Influenza (flu) vaccination

Dear Parent/Guardian

We will be offering flu vaccination to all students in Reception to Year 11 this autumn and winter.

Flu can be a very unpleasant illness, and for some it can cause serious complications. The vaccination programme is in place to protect your child against flu. It also helps to protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing its spread.

The type of flu circulating each year changes. To keep children protected against flu, it is recommended they have the flu vaccine every year.

For most children and young people, the vaccination is given as a quick and painless spray up the nose. Information about the vaccination programme is available at **www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters**.

The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of purified porcine gelatine. This is an essential ingredient to keep it stable and able to work. For those who may not accept medicines or vaccines that contain porcine gelatine, a flu vaccine injection is available.

Important next steps:

To consent for your child to have the flu vaccine please follow the steps outlined below. Consent should be given by a someone with parental responsibility. If you do not wish your child to have the flu vaccination, please still fill in the consent form as you will have the choice to decline it.

The session for The Grange School YR-Y6 is on Thursday 28ᵗʰ September 2023
The online consent form closes at 11am, two working days before the session.

1. **Click on the following link:** www.BWimmunisations.co.uk

2. **Enter and confirm your preferred email address** – *you will receive a confirmation email following submission of the consent form.*

3. **Enter your school code: BW144617**

4. **Complete and submit the consent form,** indicating your choice of consent - *please ensure you provide your child's registered address and GP.*

* **Parental responsibility consent includes:** Mother; father named on the birth certificate or married to the mother; adult granted parental responsibility by the courts; adult with delegated authority consent (given by the Local Authority when children are on a care order).

Please note: If your child is in Year 7 – 11 and requests the vaccination, it may be appropriate for your child to give their own consent if you have not returned consent. For a child to give their own consent, the immunisation nurse will assess your child's competency to consent considering what having the vaccination involves, their understanding of the benefits of receiving the vaccination and the risks of not having it.

When you have submitted the online consent, please contact the School-aged Immunisation Team if any of the following apply:

- Your child becomes wheezy, has a bad attack of asthma, or has started oral steroids for their asthma
- Your child is prescribed any new medication
- Your child receives their flu vaccination elsewhere (such as GP or chemist etc.)
- You change your mind about your child receiving/not receiving the vaccination

On the day of your child's vaccination in school, you will receive an email to confirm the vaccination was administered. Details about your child's vaccination will also be put on their health record and shared with their GP.

Further information, such as the planned dates of the vaccination in your child's school can be found on our Bridgewater NHS website, using this address: **www.tiny.cc/imm**. You can also visit the website by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone or tablet.

Our dedicated website also includes information about:

- The different school-aged vaccination programmes we deliver
- Patient information leaflets for the vaccines we use
- Updates to any planned delivery schedule we need to change at your child's school

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information. If you have any questions or would like your child to receive the flu vaccine injection, please contact your local School-aged Immunisation Team using the details below.

Yours sincerely

School-aged Immunisation Team

Halton Borough
Tel: 0151 495 5066
Email:
BCHFT.haltonimmsteam@nhs.net

Warrington Borough
Tel: 01925 946808
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BCHFT.warringtonimmsteam@nhs.net