

Public Health Link

From the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

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| Distribution: | As Appendix 1 |
| From: | Dr Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer |
| Date: | 14 November 2019 |
| Reference: | CEM/CMO/2019/5 |
| Category: | Immediate (Cascade within 24 hours) |
| Title: | Flu Vaccination Programme in Schools |
| What is this about: | The flu vaccination programme in schools to recommence from 18 November 2019 |
| Why has it been sent: | For information |

Dear Colleague,

The flu vaccination programme in schools will recommence from 18 November 2019.

I wrote to you on 24th October requesting that school vaccination sessions planned for the weeks commencing 4th and 11th November should be re-programmed. I am pleased to inform you that the school flu vaccination programme can recommence from 18th November 2019 as we are now confident that there is sufficient vaccine stock in the system to complete this element of the flu vaccination programme.

To facilitate this, ordering of the children's nasal spray flu vaccine (LAIV) (Fluenz Tetra®) has been open to health boards from Friday 8 November.

During the period of vaccine stock uncertainty we requested that general practice colleagues vaccinate children in clinical risk groups as a priority. It is very important that general practices notify health board child health offices promptly of flu vaccinations given to children who are aged four to eleven years and have a long term condition.

I appreciate that this situation has been challenging and rescheduling of school sessions has not been easy. I am grateful to you all for your support and hard work in ensuring that as many children as possible are protected from the effects of flu and help reduce its spread in the community to other vulnerable individuals.

Yours sincerely



Dr Frank Atherton
Chief Medical Officer / Medical Director NHS Wales

Appendix 1

Health Boards and NHS Trusts

To: Chief Executives
Medical Directors
Nurse Directors
Directors of Primary Care
Directors of Public Health
Chief Pharmacists

Onward distribution to:

Immunisation Leads
School Nursing Leads

Public Health Wales

To: Chief Executive
Director of Public Health Services
Head of Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme

To: **GPC Wales**