

Dorset School Age Immunisations Service

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 St Leonards Hospital
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 Dorset
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Service Operating Hours Mon-Fri 09:00 - 17:00

25 November 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

FLU VACCINATION OFFER TO CHILDREN IN YEAR 7 TO YEAR 9

We are pleased to confirm that the flu vaccination will be offered in schools this Autumn/Winter to help protect your child. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu. With COVID-19 still in circulation it is important to reduce the number of those becoming ill with flu this winter to help protect them, the NHS and social care. Research also shows that if you get both flu and COVID-19 at the same time you may be more seriously ill.

Details regarding the vaccination session for your child's school are as follows:

School	St Edward's School
Date of session	Wednesday 11 January 2023
Unique Session Code	3whchu
Complete online consent form no later than	Friday 06 January 2023

If the form is submitted too late for us to be able to do this, your child will not be able to be immunised at school, and you will need to make a clinic appointment in a community venue instead.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING ONLINE CONSENT

- Please complete the online consent form using the following link:

<https://links.inhealthcare.co.uk/dorset-flu>

This service is provided on behalf of Dorset HealthCare by InHealthCare

- InHealthCare will send a verification code to your email address, to ensure we have your correct details.
- You will be asked a series of health questions for your child. There is space to add further information if your child has a health condition or additional needs.
- We will contact you if we require any further information. Please provide a daytime telephone number if possible.
- If you miss the deadline you can still complete a form but will be offered an appointment for a catch-up clinic at a community venue.
- If you decide you do not want your child to be vaccinated against flu, there is space on the consent form for you to complete and please do tell us why.

If you have any problems completing the online consent form, please check our website: www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/schoolageimms and complete the Contact Us form. For any other queries regarding your child's vaccination, please e-mail us at dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net or phone us on 01425 891162.

The vaccination is free and is a quick and simple spray up the nose. Even if your child had it last year, it is recommended to have the flu vaccine again this year as the strains included vary from year to year.

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme is attached to this email / available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters/protect-yourself-against-flu-information-for-those-in-secondary-school>

and includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate.

If your child is unable to have the nasal flu vaccination, we will contact you to discuss your child having the flu injection at a community clinic instead.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

Yours faithfully

Dorset School Age Immunisation Service

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