

13.11.2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Flu vaccination programme

Public Health England (PHE) has informed us of the late deliveries of the nasal spray vaccine for the flu vaccination programme in schools. AstraZeneca, who produce the vaccine (Fluenz Tetra) for the UK, has delayed their delivery of a significant quantity of vaccine that was due to be delivered throughout November. Manufacturing flu vaccines is a complex biological process and this means that production of the vaccine does not always go to plan.

Unfortunately, this means that the flu vaccination session booked at your school on **21st November 2019** must be postponed because we will not have enough vaccine until later in the term. The session will be re arranged as soon as possible, and your school will let you know the new date in 2020.

Vaccinating children later in the season will still help provide protection for them and their families as flu tends to start circulating in late December/early January. However, for the small number of children who are at increased risk from flu because of an underlying health condition (such as asthma, diabetes, a heart condition, or who have a weakened immune system) it is important that their flu vaccination is not delayed. These children will be able to get the vaccine from their GP surgery, as general practices have been asked to prioritise the use of their vaccine for them. I attach a link to a leaflet that PHE has prepared that should be shared with parents of high risk children and other parents who may be disappointed that their child's vaccination will be delayed. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters>

We realise this is disappointing news and we are very sorry for the inconvenience this may cause you. If you have any queries please contact rdash.vaccsandimmsadmin@nhs.net or telephone 01302 566612/566611 for any queries.

Yours sincerely,

The Vaccination Team,

Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust.