

Flu + MMR vaccination / Winter Readiness

Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

We know that for most of you your child will be up-to-date with all their vaccinations. Thank you as this not only protects your child from several contagious and potentially serious diseases but also protects vulnerable members of your family and our community.

Although COVID-19 has introduced a ‘new normal’ of schooling with social distancing, ‘bubbling’ and infection control measures, children are still at risk of germs (virus and bacteria alike) spreading. Vaccination builds children’s immunity to protect against these illnesses. It also, for a number of diseases, stops these germs being spread, thus protecting the very vulnerable children who may not have, or may not be able to develop, immunity.

Every year all children aged 2 or 3 will be offered the nasal flu vaccination by their GP and from this year, children from Reception Year to 12 years old (Year 7) will be offered the flu vaccination by the school-aged immunisation team in school. Children over the age of 12 years who are at risk e.g. have asthma or diabetes should get the flu vaccination every year from their GP.

Keeping your child at home if they have symptoms of flu-like illness or diarrhoea and/or vomiting or any other infectious disease is also important as this also helps prevent wider outbreaks of diseases like flu and norovirus, especially at this time of year.

In London, vaccination rates for MMR in children are lower than needed. Due to COVID-19, vaccination rates dropped even lower. Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can be very unpleasant and sometimes lead to serious complications.

The best protection against measles is to ensure your child has had two doses of the mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) vaccination. Search online: “NHS MMR vaccine”. Children up to the age of 18 who missed, or only partially completed, their earlier MMR vaccination can have a “catch-up” MMR vaccination on the NHS.

If you are not sure:

1. Check that your child has had all the correct vaccinations. It will be recorded in your child’s red book, or you can ask your GP.
2. If you think your child has missed any of the vaccinations, please speak with your GP.

All London general practices have adapted their delivery of vaccinations to ensure that they are safely vaccinating children in COVID-19 secure venues with social distancing, Personal Protective Equipment and infection control measures in place.

There is lots of information about vaccination here: www.nhs.uk/vaccinations.

Here is the childhood vaccination schedule:

Age	Vaccine
8 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine Rotavirus vaccine MenB
12 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine (2 nd dose) Rotavirus vaccine (2 nd dose)
16 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine (3 rd dose) Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine (2 nd dose) MenB (2 nd dose)
1 year	Hib/MenC (1 st dose) MMR (1 st dose) Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine (3 rd dose) MenB (3 rd dose)
2-12 years	Flu vaccine (every year) (Children over 12 years who are at risk, e.g. have asthma, should get this vaccination every year from their GP)
3 years and 4 months	MMR (2 nd dose) 4-in-1 pre-school booster
12 to 13 years	HPV vaccine (for boys and girls)
14 years	3-in-1 teenage booster MenACWY

Yours faithfully,



Carole Furlong
Director of Public Health