

Immunisation Team
Horton Park Centre
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11th November 2019

Dear Headteacher

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 must be postponed because we will not have enough vaccine until later in the term. We will be in touch to discuss any rescheduling of a later vaccination session at your school.

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.

We realise this is disappointing news and we are very sorry for the inconvenience this will cause the school. We will keep you updated on any future developments and would like to thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation. If you have any queries please contact us on 07702 821955. Parents with concerns can contact us on 01274 221203.

Yours sincerely

Immunisation Team