



Flu Vaccination in Pilot Areas 2014/15 Stakeholder briefing, August 2014

Background

The seasonal flu vaccination programme is based on independent expert advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The current flu vaccination policy aims to reduce the serious morbidity and mortality due to flu by immunising those people most at risk of serious illness or death should they develop flu. This is in line with most other countries that have seasonal influenza vaccination programmes.

Another benefit of vaccination is to reduce transmission of the infection, thereby contributing to the protection of vulnerable individuals and populations who may not respond well to their own immunisations.

In July 2012, the JCVI recommended extending the programme to healthy children. This programme will lower the impact of influenza on those children but should also have a more profound effect on influenza transmission. Children are the main source of transmission in the population and this programme will therefore reduce the spread of infection from children to other children, adults and those in clinical risk groups of any age. The Secretary of State accepted this recommendation and the implementation of the extension commenced in September 2013 with a general practice roll-out to children aged 2 and 3 years and seven geographic pilots in children aged 5-11 years.

This year, the programme in general practice will continue and will include four year olds as well. The seven primary school pilots (in five area teams) will continue and there will be further pilots for children in Years 7 and 8 (aged around 11-13 years) in secondary schools – pilot area details below.

Pilots are determining the best approach to implementing the programme for school-aged children, so that the programme can be implemented efficiently and sustainably, without putting pressure on other essential services.

Local screening and immunisation teams are currently making arrangements for implementing the programme in their pilot areas – contact your local teams for further information.

Pilot Areas

In 2014 to 2015, pilots will be carried out in parts of the following areas:

| Pilot Area 2014 to 2015 | School Cohort |
|---|---|
| Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | Primary |
| Greater Manchester | Primary and secondary |
| Lancashire | Secondary |
| North Yorkshire and Humber | Secondary |
| Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster and Bassetlaw | Secondary |
| West Yorkshire | Secondary |
| Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire | Secondary |
| Birmingham, Solihull and The Black Country | Secondary |
| East Anglia | Secondary |
| Essex | Primary and secondary |
| Leicestershire and Lincolnshire | Primary and secondary |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire | Secondary |
| London | Primary and secondary (year 7) in parts of London. All children in special schools across London. |

Further information

For further information on the 14/15 flu pilots go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childhood-flu-immunisation-programme-from-september-2014-to-2015/information-for-parents-and-schools>