



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>