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Date 2nd September 2021

Dear Colleague

The NHS GGC Childhood Immunisation Team have been receiving some requests from paediatric consultants in relation to signposting parents to accessing an earlier appointment for their child's annual flu immunisation, where their child is considered "at risk". Historically and traditionally this would have been facilitated by the child's GP, who until now, provided flu vaccination for at risk children.

You will be aware of the work of the Primary Care Improvement Plan and the Vaccine Transformation Programme, which aims to remove vaccinations from GPs completely. This current financial year fully removes all childhood vaccinations from GP surgeries and these are now delivered by NHS GGC childhood immunisation teams, which operate in community clinics for pre-5 children and in schools for school aged children.

We write to advise you that all pre-school children will be offered the flu vaccine at a community clinic and all school age will be vaccinated within school. This year there will be no facility to arrange early vaccination of 'at-risk' school age children. The flu campaign within schools will be completed over a 10 week period, commencing on 04.10.2021 and completed by 15.12.2021. Any child who is absent from school on the school's designated flu day will be followed up by the immunisation team to offer an alternative appointment.

Actions for paediatric consultants would be to advise parents of this move to GGC immunisation teams for all childhood immunisations and that their child will receive an appointment timeously and vaccinated well before the flu virus starts to circulate. Also ensuring immunity lasts throughout the winter flu season which can extend to March or later. Managing parental expectations in this is crucial and we seek your support in providing parents with this information as the opportunity arises.

Can we also take this opportunity to ask you to advise the school nurse immunisation team of any child's underlying health conditions which require consideration when offering routine teenage vaccinations – HPV, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, meningococcal and MMR? The school nurse immunisation team can be contacted on 0141 532 8768 (please note this number is for routine vaccinations for school aged children only).

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gillian Penrice'.

Dr Gillian Penrice
Consultant Public Health Medicine and Immunisation Co-ordinator