**Children’s flu programme (2/3 year olds)**

**Key messages:**

* The children’s flu vaccine was available to order at the end of August for delivery at the start of September. This is around 4 weeks earlier than usual. Because of this and the expectation of a ‘bad’ flu season this year, there has been a national push to get 2/3 year olds vaccinated as early as possible. Children can be carriers of the flu virus and not show any symptoms and as they are more likely to be in contact with all ages in the community, it is key they are vaccinated before flu begins to circulate. This will reduce winter pressures on GP practices
* GP practices are commissioned to invite parents/carers 2/3 year olds to receive their flu vaccine. The regional CHIS letter is an additional letter and not a replacement for the GP’s invitation letter. The CHIS letter is not being sent out this year, as has been communicated with practices
* The school aged immunisation provider is not commissioned to vaccinate 2/3-year olds. The primary invitation offer should come from GP practices
* The flu vaccine can be given with other vaccines including COVID, although realistically not many 2/3 year olds, if any, will be having the COVID vaccine
* Parents and carers of 2/3 year olds who have not been vaccinated will be contacted by the national call/recall service from the week of 11/10/2021b and be asked to contact their practice to book in for their 2/3 year old to have the flu vaccine. This was communicated to GP practices on 30 September
* Planned half term clinics may need additional/ supplementary offers added to as not all parents/carers of 2/3 year olds can access half term clinics
* Planning for flu clinics should not be to the detriment of COVID clinics and vice versa. One imms programme is not more important than the other
* NHS England does not send out invitations for any immunisation programme. GPs are commissioned to send out invitations to parents/carers of 2/3 year olds
* There are no issues with ordering children’s flu vaccine. If the cap on the amount that can be ordered is lower than the amount you require, please phone ImmForm who can remove the cap for you
* If a parent/carer refuses LAIV due to porcine content QIV is available to order via ImmForm as an alternative. Both vaccines have been available to order since the end of August
* COVID imms programme is not a more important/priority imms programme over the flu imms programme. Both are equal
* 2/3 year old clinics can be quickly organised in place of an adult flu clinic that has had to be postponed due to stock delivery delays. There is no need to cancel the clinic session
* Both healthy and clinically at risk 2/3 year olds can be vaccinated with the flu vaccine in the same clinic. GP practices are commissioned to invite both health and clinically at risk 2/3 year olds