



Ref: HPZ191262.

Date: 17th January 2018

RE: Influenza-Like Illness at The Grove Primary School School, Totnes

Dear Duty Doctor,

Public Health England was notified by the school that a number of students have been unwell with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI); at present 10 children are off school / nursery with ILI. A letter has been sent to the staff and parents at the school outlining the importance of infection control, influenza vaccination and explaining the need for prophylaxis/treatment for persons in risk groups who are contacts of those with ILI.

I would like to remind you of PHE guidance on post exposure prophylaxis for influenza.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/580509/PHE_guidance_antivirals_influenza_2016_2017.pdf

As per NICE guidance, prophylaxis should be issued if the contact in a risk group is not adequately protected by vaccination, that is: there has been less than 14 days between vaccination and date of first contact with influenza. The 2017/2018 vaccine is well-matched to the circulating strain.

In 2017/18 the following are eligible for flu vaccination:

- all children aged two to eight (but not nine years or older) on 31 August 2017 (with LAIV)
- all primary school aged children in former primary school pilot areas (with LAIV)
- those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- those aged 65 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers
- Morbidly obese BMI>40

Furthermore frontline health and social care workers should be provided flu vaccination by their employer. This includes general practice staff.

If you see any students at the school with ILI please could you take a VIRAL throat swab and send it to your local laboratory with "Outbreak Number 191262." written on the request form and inform PHE of the case's details.

If you would like to discuss this matter or for any advice, please do not hesitate to contact your local PHE health protection team on:

0300 303 8162 option 1 then option 1 for SW (South) HPT

Yours sincerely,

Penelope Edwards
Health Protection Practitioner