

Public Health Commissioning  
NHS England, South East  
Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London, SE1 8UG

17 April 2026

Dear Headteacher,

We are writing jointly from NHS England (South East Region) and the Director of Public Health to thank you for the vital role your school plays in supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

The school-aged flu vaccination programme is essential in reducing illness and preventing disruption. Last winter, several schools experienced flu outbreaks that led to avoidable absence. High vaccine uptake reduces the risk of flu spreading rapidly in school settings and helps ensure children remain well and able to learn.

Next academic year (2026/27), the Department of Health and Social Care has instructed the NHS to complete **all first school visits for flu vaccination by the end of November 2026**, two weeks earlier than in previous years. This accelerated timeline aims to ensure children are protected before flu starts to circulate widely and will require close and timely collaboration between schools and School Aged Immunisation (SAI) teams.

To deliver the programme within this shorter timeframe, SAI teams will need early engagement and practical support from schools. Early confirmation of vaccination session dates and timely provision of pupil information enable consent materials to be issued to parents/carers on time, reduce repeated requests to school staff, and support smooth-running sessions that maximise uptake.

**We are asking for your active support to ensure every eligible child can be offered vaccination on time. Schools can help by:**


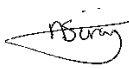
- Responding promptly to SAI teams to agree vaccination session dates, and avoiding changes wherever possible
- Providing up-to-date class lists and parent contact details at the start of the school year in September ([DfE guidance](#))
- Encouraging parents and carers to complete consent forms promptly
- Sharing communications from SAI teams with families to raise awareness and encourage uptake
- Supporting pupils and the SAI team on the day of vaccination sessions

By working together, we can keep pupils healthy, reduce avoidable absence, and minimise disruption to learning during the winter months. Your continued support is vital to the success of the programme and the health of your school community.

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Thank you once again for your cooperation and commitment.

Yours faithfully,



**Alicia Siraj**  
Deputy Director of Public Health  
Commissioning- Immunisations  
Southeast, NHS England



**Professor Dr Anjan Ghosh**  
Director of Public Health  
Kent County Council