Dear Setting

**The flu vaccination programme in schools has begun this autumn term**.

Flu and COVID-19 will both be circulating at the same time, making it more important than ever to protect against the risks this winter.

As well as all primary school aged children being offered the flu vaccine, this coming season the Government is extending the programme to year 7-9 children in secondary schools.

Children can pass flu on to others in their immediate family and wider community, many of whom may be at higher risk from the complications of flu.

Please ensure you:

* agree a process for providing parents with the invitation letter, information leaflet and consent form
* encourage children and their parents to look out for the consent form and return it by an agreed time
* send reminders through your usual channels such as email or text distribution lists, parent newsletters, visual display screens etc.
* endorse the programme on your website etc.
* provide opportunities to incorporate Flu health messages into the curriculum and across the school community
* Included in this email are a number of different resources for both children and parent/carers including a storybook resource for children ‘Flu Fighters Versus Chilly Achy and Snotty’ Please do make this information available to all staff in your school, particularly those who are likely to speak to parents or children about the vaccination

For any question or more information on how we can support you please get in contact with myself Roxanne O’Brien at roxanne.obrien@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Best Wishes

 **Roxanne O’Brien | Public Health Programme Officer| Children and Adolescence | Public Health**