

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th September 2016

Dear Constituent,

RE: FLU VACCINE (NASAL)

Thank you for contacting me about the nasal spray flu vaccine.

Flu immunisation is a key part of the Government's immunisation programme. I agree that safety is paramount and this programme is based on the advice and recommendations of the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

In 2012, the JCVI recommended that the routine annual flu immunisation programme be extended to all children aged two to under 17 years. A phased introduction commenced in 2013, and by the 2015/16 flu season, the flu vaccine has been offered to all children who are two, three and four years old on 31 August 2015 and to all children of school years 1 and 2 age across the UK.

The programme aims to reduce substantially flu-related illness, GP consultations, hospital admissions and deaths in the population as well as raising awareness of the benefits of flu immunisation amongst parents and children. For those children who cannot have this vaccine for medical reasons there are suitable alternative vaccines. The JCVI has reviewed evidence from across the UK, Finland, Canada and the United States following the 2015/16 influenza season, much of which demonstrates good overall effectiveness. Following this, the JCVI continues to recommend using the nasal spray vaccine for preventing flu in children and strongly supports the continuation of the UK childhood influenza immunisation programme.

I can assure you that Public Health England and the JCVI keeps all immunisation matters under review, including the safety and efficacy of a programme.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.