

## **Flu Vaccine for Children – Winter 2014**

We would like to make you aware that this year the NHS is introducing the annual nasal spray flu vaccine for all children aged 2, 3 and 4 and those in Worcestershire there is also a pilot programme for secondary school in Years 7 and 8. That means those children born on and between the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2001 to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2003 and those born 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 to the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 are eligible.

The flu vaccine is given as a single dose of a nasal spray squirted up each nostril which has the advantage of being needle free. It is quick and painless and means your child will be less likely to become ill if they come into contact with the flu virus. In addition, this nasal spray flu vaccine is available to all children between 2 and 18 who are at risk such as those with long term health conditions.

There are a few children who should not have the nasal flu vaccine and if you have any doubt, please discuss this with one of our nurses.

We encourage the uptake of flu vaccine in the community to try to reduce the likelihood of spread as flu can be very unpleasant for children and adults alike.

If you are interested and one of our patients, please contact Great Witley practice for more information.

A good reference is the NHS Choices website under the heading of Vaccinations.