

**PERMANENT SECRETARY**  
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School Principals

Dear Principal

**Preparing for the 2020/21 Influenza Season**

Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer, has written to me regarding preparations for this year's Influenza season. Dr McBride's letter highlights the increased risk of mortality and complications should Covid-19 infections be combined with other infections and the desire to have a 95% uptake on the flu vaccination. He has also highlighted the intention to extend the vaccination programme this year to include Year 8 pupils and the importance of this being carried out in schools to encourage maximum uptake.

I am fully aware of the pressures that you are under as we prepare for the new school year. In addition to the normal back to school preparations, the measures having to be adopted to deal with the Covid-19 outbreak have further increased the workload for all involved in education.

I would, however, encourage you and your staff to engage fully with school health teams to facilitate access to schools and pupils in order to help ensure that a high uptake rate is achieved. For your information, I am copying Dr McBride's letter to you.

I would like to thank you once again for your continued support and assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'D A Baker'.

**D A BAKER**

**cc:** Dr Michael McBride