

Happy New Year and we hope you enjoyed the Christmas break. Further to our communications at the end of last term, we wanted to make contact with a brief update and reminder of links to the current guidance. This follows reports from UKHSA that lots of viruses are circulating as children return after Christmas.

Across the country flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported nationally. Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Links to resources to support this are available at the links below

[Child flu vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

[NHS – Scarlet Fever](#)

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/05/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know>
[Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment](#)

[Translated Information Packs | Group A Strep | Campaign Resource Centre \(dhsc.gov.uk\)](#) (Please note you need to create an account to access these resources)

In addition, please find attached a letter for parents that you can share with your families if you wish to.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Health Protection and Civil Contingencies Team (01942 404240, HealthprotectionandCivilContingencies@wigan.gov.uk) should you have any queries or require any further support.