

Influenza (Nasal Flu) immunisation for your child in primary school years R - 7

This year, all children from years Reception to year 7 at primary school are being offered a flu vaccine at their school given as a simple squirt up the nose. It is painless, quick, and side effects are uncommon and generally mild. All children in special needs schools are eligible for the influenza immunisation.

By having the flu vaccination, children are less likely to pass the virus on to friends and family, especially those who may be at greater risk from flu, such as infants, elderly people or friends and relatives with a serious health condition. This will also help reduce further strain on the NHS as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Vaccination UK may now be providing this vaccine in community clinic settings instead of the usual school setting, particularly if there are local lockdowns in place. If that is the case, clinic times and locations will be provided. In some areas, we continue to use school premises to hold these sessions.

If these are held in community settings, these clinics will be run on an appointment basis to ensure that we strictly limit numbers at any one time, and social distancing is observed. Please note, your child's temperature will be taken on arrival and if they have a fever, they will be sent home and a new appointment will be made. Staff will be wearing PPE to protect pupils as much as possible and hand sanitiser will be available and should be used upon arrival. Parents will be asked to wait outside the clinic to avoid overcrowding and to maintain social distancing.

The consent form and this information is also available on our website: www.schoolvaccination.uk

Please find attached some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about this vaccine. In addition, information about this vaccine can be obtained using the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine-questions-and-answers/>

If you need further information you can also contact us by email or telephone. Please include your child's school information when you contact us.

IF YOU WISH TO REFUSE THE VACCINE PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM AND TELL US WHY. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU RETURN THE FORM EVEN IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO HAVE THE VACCINE.

LONDON:

- **Havering** 0203 432 1971 or Havering@vaccinationuk.co.uk
- **Redbridge** 0203 432 1537 or Redbridge@vaccinationuk.co.uk
- **Waltham Forest:** 0208 214 1219 or WalthamForest@vaccinationuk.co.uk
- **Newham** 0208 214 1394 or Newham@vaccinationuk.co.uk
- **Barking and Dagenham:** 0203 432 1464 or BarkingandDagenham@vaccinationuk.co.uk
- **Hackney & City** 0207 613 8374 or HackneyandCity@vaccinationuk.co.uk
- **Tower Hamlets** 0203 613 9422 or TowerHamlets@vaccinationuk.co.uk
- **Haringey and Islington** 0208 017 7925 or Haringeyandislington@vaccinationuk.co.uk

HERTFORDSHIRE:

- **East, North and West Herts** 01462 341173 or vaccinationhertfordshire@evguk.co.uk

WEST MIDLANDS:

- **Dudley:** 01384 431712 or vaccinationdudley@evguk.co.uk
- **Wolverhampton:** 01902 200077 or vaccinationwolverhampton@evguk.co.uk
- **Walsall:** 01922 902035 or vaccinationwalsall@evguk.co.uk
- **Sandwell** 01215 921110 or sandwell@vaccinationuk.co.uk
- **Worcestershire** 01527 390030 or worcestershire@vaccinationuk.co.uk
- **Herefordshire** 01432 663085 or herefordshire@vaccinationuk.co.uk

Please complete the attached consent form* (one for each child) and **return it to the school within 1 week** so your child can be given the vaccine in a timely way to protect them. *The person who has parental responsibility must sign the consent form**. **If your child's flu session is due to be held outside of school, we will be in contact to give you an appointment.**

We would ask that if your child cannot attend the appointment that you provide us with 24 hours' notice so that someone else can have the appointment.

If your child has asthma and becomes wheezy or has their medication increased after you return this form, please contact the immunisation team on the number or email above.

Please see over the page for information regarding how we use your child's data, and additional information about the vaccine.

Yours Sincerely,

The School Immunisation Team

**The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:*

- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

Additional information about Fluenz Flu Immunisation:

Are there any side effects of the vaccine?

Possible side effects are: decreased appetite, headache, a runny or blocked nose, aching limbs, mild temperature. These are uncommon, pass quickly and can be treated with paracetamol/ ibuprofen if you feel your child needs it. These are more common with the first ever dose of flu vaccine and should reduce with doses in the following years.

Are there any children who shouldn't have the nasal vaccine?

Children should not have the nasal vaccine if they:

- Are allergic to eggs, egg proteins, gentamicin or gelatine
- Are currently wheezy or have been wheezy in the past week (vaccination should be delayed until at least seven days after the wheezing has stopped)
- Are severely asthmatic, i.e. being treated with oral steroids or high dose inhaled steroids
- Have a condition that severely weakens their immune system.

Also, children who have been vaccinated should avoid *close* contact with people with very severely weakened immune systems for around two weeks following vaccination. This is because there's an extremely remote chance that the vaccine virus may be passed to them.

Contact with other healthy children or adults does not need to be limited after having the vaccine.

Can the vaccine strain of flu be spread to others who have not been vaccinated? (Viral shedding)

Unvaccinated contacts are not at risk of becoming seriously ill with the weakened flu vaccine virus, either through being in the same room where flu vaccine has been given, or by being in contact with a recently vaccinated pupil. No 'mist' of vaccine virus escapes into the air and therefore, there is no need for any child or staff member to be excluded from school during the period when the vaccine is being offered or in the following days. The tiny number of children who are extremely immunocompromised (for example those who have just had a bone marrow transplant), are already advised not to attend school because of the much higher risk of contact with other infections that spread in schools. Although vaccinated children do shed vaccine virus for a few days after vaccination, the virus is less able to spread from person to person than the natural infection. The amount of virus shed is normally below that needed to spread infection to others and the virus does not survive for long outside of the body. This is in contrast to natural flu infection, which spreads easily during the flu season. In schools where vaccine is being offered therefore, the overall risk of contact with influenza viruses is massively reduced by having most children vaccinated.

Vaccination UK Privacy Notice 2020/21:

Who is collecting the data?

Vaccination UK is collecting information about your child to ensure that we have up to date health information about their health at the time that you are consenting for them to receive an immunisation. Their demographic information is used to ensure that we identify their electronic health record accurately.

What data is being collected?

We ask for basic demographic data to allow us to identify them and their health record. The information about their health is utilised by the nurses to ensure that they can confirm that the immunisation is suitable for them.

What is the legal basis for processing the data?

Section 9 (2)(h) of the Data Protection Act 2018 allows for processing of your child's data for the provision of direct healthcare and the management of healthcare systems.

Will the data be shared with any third parties?

Your child's data will be shared with their General Practice (GP) and with the child health information system (CHIS) which holds immunisation and screening information for all children in the UK.

How will the information be used?

We collect data on consent forms to allow us to identify a person's health record if you have consented to their immunisation and to allow the nurses to make decisions about their care based on the most up to date information about their current health.

How long will the data be stored for?

The information will be stored on their electronic health record after their vaccination; this information will be then be available throughout their lifetime. Their paper records will be destroyed once they have been scanned on to their record.

What rights does the data subject have?

Data subjects have the right to request a copy of any data we request or record about them.

How can you contact us with queries or concerns about this privacy notice?

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the information that we hold about your child or have a question regarding this notice, please contact your local school immunisation team.