

Dear Parent/Carer



All children in school from reception class to Year 11 class will be invited to have their flu vaccination.

GP practice



Your child will only be able to have their flu vaccination at the GP practice if their GP offers them the vaccination there.



Please read the information pack we have sent you to help you make a decision.

fill in form



Please complete your child's consent form. This will be sent out to you via your school.



If you return the form and your child's health has changed, or you move home, then please phone us to let us know so that your child does not miss out on their vaccine.

Phone 0113 843 3101
or **email schoolimmsteam@nhs.net**



If your child is vaccinated we will tell your GP to keep their vaccination records up to date.



If you have any other questions please call us on free phone:

Phone 0113 843 3101
or **email schoolimmsteam@nhs.net**
Our staff will be happy to help you.

Questions about the Flu vaccination

flu



Flu is a viral infection that could make you really poorly.

good idea



Flu vaccination helps to protect your child.

It also stops spreading from your child to you or older more vulnerable adults in the family like grandparents. It means you don't have to stay home to look after them. Flu makes people too poorly to do everyday things like going to school and going to work.

nasal spray



Most children have the vaccination as a spray given up the nose.

This is called a nasal spray.



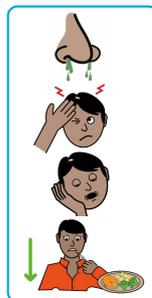
Healthcare staff who have had special training will give the nasal spray at school.

Older children may be able to do it themselves when they are with the healthcare team.

ingredients



It contains weak flu viruses that help to get your children's immunity to build up some protection. Once they have had the vaccine, if they come into contact with the virus, they are unlikely to get it as they have already built up some protection. It works quickly once sprayed into the nose, so even if they sneeze just after having the spray, it will still work. There is no need to worry.



Side effects are not common, but they could be:

Runny nose.

Headache.

General tiredness.

Some loss of appetite.



Children should not have the nasal flu spray if they are:

- **Severely asthmatic** i.e. being treated with oral steroids or high dose inhaled steroids.
- Are **severely immune compromised**.



The vaccine may contain really small amounts of animal products and other ingredients.

If you have any concerns about the contents then you can find more information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccines-and-gelatine-phe-response>



Is there any other important information the flu team need to know?



School Aged Immunisation Service contact details:
Phone 0113 843 3101 Email schoolimmsteam@nhs.net

Dear parent/guardian,

It is time for your child's yearly flu vaccination!

School Years included: Reception, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Why get your child vaccinated?

It helps keep your child safe from flu. Flu can be a nasty illness and sometimes causes serious problems such as a chest infection which can develop into pneumonia. It is a quick and simple nose spray.

Giving your child the flu spray will stop the spread. This will help keep friends and family safe. Older people and those with illnesses are most at risk if they catch flu from children.

The flu vaccination is free for your child. Flu viruses change, so even if they had it last year, they need it again this year.

www.nhs.uk/child-flu has more information and tells you which children need the flu injection instead of the nose spray.

The nasal spray contains porcine/pork gelatine, is there an alternative?

Yes, we offer a flu injectable vaccine that **DOES NOT** contain porcine gelatine. To consent to flu injectable, click no to the nasal flu vaccine and you will be given further options.

We do not give the alternative flu injectable vaccine in primary school sessions. To receive the flu injection for children in reception to year 6 you must contact us on 0113 8433101 to arrange a Clinic Appointment.

How do you let us know you want your child to have the flu vaccination?

Please fill in one online consent form for each child, **click on the following link:**

[Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust is a research active teaching Trust](#)

Chair: Brodie Clark CBE

Interim Chief Executive: Sam Prince

<https://www.leedsimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

The code for your child's school is: EE108016

Please fill it in as soon as you can to ensure your child gets vaccinated. Even if you do not want your child to be vaccinated, please complete the form to let us know. We are due to visit your child's school between October to December 2023.

Your school will confirm the date that our service will attend as **access to the link will close 3 days before the session.**

What if my child is absent?

If your child is away from school on the day, please await further information from us on how we can offer a second opportunity for your child to be immunised. This vaccine is not offered by your GP unless your child is in an at-risk group.

If your child becomes wheezy, has a bad attack of asthma, or has started steroid tablets for asthma after you return this form, please contact the School Immunisation Team on the telephone number or email address given above.

If your child has this vaccination anywhere else, please let the team know to stop them being given it again in the school session.

Call us on **0113 8433101** if you have any problems or questions. The team will be happy to help.

Yours faithfully

School Aged Immunisation Service

[Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust is a research active teaching Trust](#)

Chair: Brodie Clark CBE

Interim Chief Executive: Sam Prince



Flu vaccination 2023 to 2024

Briefing for primary schools

This leaflet gives details about the flu vaccination programme for primary school aged children including how the programme is delivered and the role schools play.



This autumn term all primary school aged children in England (from Reception class to Year 6) will be offered a flu vaccination by the NHS school aged immunisation service. Most children are offered a nasal spray flu vaccine. We are grateful for the support of schools in hosting vaccination sessions. Delivering the programme through schools makes it more accessible to pupils which results in higher uptake levels. The school aged immunisation service will be in touch with your school to agree a date for the vaccination session and the best approach for implementing the programme in your school.

Flu is an unpredictable virus that can kill thousands of people during a flu season. The flu vaccine is the best defence we have against it. Vaccination of children is based on the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the independent expert advisory group that advises the Government on vaccination. The benefits include protection against flu for the children who receive the vaccine and reduced transmission of flu in the community. This is because children play a key role in the transmission of flu, including to those who may be at higher risk from the complications from flu such as the elderly. Since the start of the programme, research has shown that vaccinating large numbers of children has reduced the circulation of flu in the community. This has reduced the number of GP consultations for flu like illness for both the vaccinated children and the wider community and has also reduced hospital admissions from flu. For schools the benefits include reduced absenteeism and the reduced likelihood of teachers catching flu from their pupils.

Any pupils who miss the session at school will be provided with further opportunities to get the vaccine (which may be at an alternative venue). The school aged immunisation service will be able to provide further details. For the small number of pupils who may be at increased risk from flu because of underlying health conditions, their parents have the option of requesting the vaccine from their GP practice if they don't want to wait for the school session or prefer to be vaccinated there.



Frequently asked questions

What will the school be asked to do?

Your school aged immunisation service team will try and keep disruption to a minimum and will only ask you to do the things that they cannot do themselves.

Schools will be asked to:

- work with the school aged immunisation service to agree the best approach for implementing the programme in your school
- nominate a named contact for the school aged immunisation service to liaise with
- agree a date(s) for the vaccination session
- provide class lists with contact details to the school aged immunisation service
- agree a process for providing parents/guardians with the invitation letter, information leaflet and consent form so that parents/guardians can get the materials as quickly as possible
- encourage children and their parents/guardians to look out for the consent form and return it by an agreed time
- send reminders through your usual channels such as email or text distribution lists, parent newsletters, visual display screens etc.
- communicate the programme on your website etc.
- let parents know which day vaccination will take place
- and let children know what will happen and answer any questions parents and children have on the logistics and date of vaccinations

Other practical considerations include:

- provide a suitable location for the vaccination to take place (e.g. school hall), you may want to share a photo of your space with the school aged immunisation service
- ensure the school aged immunisation service can access the agreed space before the vaccinations are due to start, so they can set-up
- provide suitable sized tables and chairs for the team and if possible, access to a power supply with extension cables

Why are children offered a nasal spray?

Children are offered a nasal spray as it is quick, painless, easy to administer and is better at reducing the spread of flu to others than an injected vaccine.

There will be a small number of children in your school not able to have the nasal spray vaccine because of pre-existing medical conditions or treatments. They will be offered an injected vaccine (either at school or through their GP practice). Parents who don't want their child to have the nasal spray because of the very small amounts of porcine gelatine (used as a stabiliser) can discuss the option of an injected vaccine with the school aged immunisation service.

All questions about vaccine suitability, and whether the child or young person can have it on the day if unwell, should be directed to the school aged immunisation service. There are NHS leaflets which provide more information for parents on the vaccine, including how it works and information on those children who are unable to have it (see: www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters)

3 - Flu immunisation briefing for primary schools

Benefits to schools

- helps protect children against flu which in turn reduces pupil and staff absenteeism rates
- the engagement in NHS public health programmes, including vaccination, is recognised by OFSTED as being important and provides an opportunity to discuss vaccinations as part of Health Education, which has been compulsory in primary and secondary schools since September 2020
- promotes a healthy environment in schools and the wider community, including amongst the children's immediate and extended family
- reduce the likelihood of flu outbreaks in schools
- provides an opportunity to integrate learning about the benefits of vaccination into the school curriculum including history and science

How often do you need a flu vaccine and when do vaccinations need to be given?

As the flu virus can change each year, vaccination is required on an annual basis. The strains of virus used in flu vaccines change from one season to the next. Vaccinations are generally given in the autumn term before flu tends to circulate.

Who will be giving the vaccine to the children?

The programme will be delivered by an NHS commissioned school aged immunisation service team which may include nurses, healthcare support workers, administrative staff, and other associated professionals who specialise in delivery of school aged vaccinations. The team will administer the vaccination according to nationally set standards. Staff will have appropriate qualifications and training, including safeguarding training.

How else could the school support the programme?

Schools have a key role to play in promoting uptake of the immunisation programme because of the relationship you have with parents and children. Please use all your communication channels to help promote uptake and share this leaflet with staff in your school.

How will parent/guardian consent be obtained?

A consent form and information leaflet provided by the school aged immunisation service will be used to seek parental/guardian consent. Only children for whom consent has been received will be vaccinated. Parents/guardians will also be provided with a contact number for the school aged immunisation service in case of any queries. Forms should be returned by the deadline agreed with the team. You may be asked to collect these forms from parents/guardians on behalf of the school aged immunisation service, or it may be done electronically.

Does GDPR change how information is shared?

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became UK law in 2018. No change is needed to the ways in which young people's personal information is used and shared by schools with the school aged immunisation service for the purpose of providing vaccinations for this to be lawful under the UK Data Protection legislation.

4 - Flu immunisation briefing for primary schools

How will the school aged immunisation service identify the children to be vaccinated?

The team will have a list of all children for whom consent has been received. They may ask the class teacher or assistant to confirm the identity of younger children in primary school.

Can parents/guardians refuse to have their child vaccinated?

Yes. The vaccination is not mandatory. Parents/guardians will be asked to give their informed consent for the vaccination.

What happens if a child is not present on the day when vaccination is offered in the school?

For any children absent on the vaccination day, there will be catch-up arrangements in place that the school aged immunisation service will be able to share with the school.

What should be done if a child becomes unwell in school after receiving the vaccination?

If the team is still on site, seek advice directly from them. If the team have left the site, manage the situation according to existing policies for pupil sickness in school and contact the school aged immunisation service to ensure they are aware and can report any event related to the timing of administration of the vaccine.

Can unvaccinated contacts catch flu from the nasal spray droplets or from vaccinated individuals 'shedding' the virus?

The nasal spray vaccine has an excellent safety record and unvaccinated contacts are not at risk of catching flu from the vaccine, either through being in the same room where flu vaccine has been given or by being in contact with a recently vaccinated individual.

Although vaccinated children are known to shed virus for a few days after vaccination, it is less able to spread from person-to-person than the natural infection. The amount of virus shed is normally below the levels needed to pass on 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.

Excluding children from school during the period when the vaccine is being offered, or in the following weeks, is not necessary. The only exception to this would be the tiny number of children who are extremely immunocompromised (for example those who have just had a bone marrow transplant). These children are normally advised not to attend school anyway because of the much higher risk of being in contact with other infections, including natural flu infection, that spread in schools.

Can teachers have the vaccine?

Not as part of this programme. The nasal flu vaccine is not licensed for adults. Some schools, however, may choose to provide an injectable vaccine for their teachers through the school's occupational health services.

Staff aged 65 years or older, with certain medical conditions that put them at risk from flu, or who are pregnant, are entitled to free flu vaccination (injectable vaccine) through the NHS. Eligible staff should contact their GP practice or pharmacy.

See www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/ for further information.

5 - Flu immunisation briefing for primary schools

The nasal flu vaccine

Almost all children will be able to have the vaccine as a nasal spray (up the nose), which is a quick and painless process

If a child is unwell on the day, the team delivering the vaccines will decide whether to proceed with vaccination or not

Serious side effects are uncommon but many children can develop a runny or blocked nose, headache, some tiredness or loss of appetite that lasts for a short period

There are NHS leaflets which provide more information for parents on the vaccine, including how it works and information on those children and young people who are unable to have it



All questions on the suitability of the vaccine for individual children should be directed to the NHS team delivering the vaccinations.



www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

© Crown copyright 2023. Product code: 2023FBS1 2p 93K JUNE 2023 (APS). UK Health Security Agency gateway number: 2023070
To order more copies of this guidance please visit: www.healthpublications.gov.uk or call 0300 123 1022