

Influenza (Nasal Flu) immunisation for your child in primary school years R - 6

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This year, all children from years Reception to year 6 at primary school are being offered a flu vaccination at their school. All children in special needs schools are eligible for the influenza immunisation.

Your child will be offered a flu vaccine that is given as a simple squirt up the nose. It is painless, very quick, and side effects are uncommon and generally mild. This vaccination programme is designed to protect your child against influenza, an illness which can cause serious complications. Last year, most children offered the vaccine in schools had the vaccine.

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.

Enclosed with this letter is a leaflet with answers to some commonly asked questions about flu and the vaccination.

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.

- Hertfordshire Immunisation Team **Email:** vaccinationhertfordshire@evguk.co.uk
Phone: 01462 459 595

Please complete the enclosed 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.

A person who has parental responsibility must sign the consent form.*

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.

It is important to complete and return the form even if the recommended vaccination is refused.

In order to improve our service, we would be grateful if you would tell us your reason for refusal.

Should you change your mind at a later date, please feel free to contact us.

For further information, please see: www.nhs.uk/child-flu

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

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Yerby



Clinical Director
Vaccination UK

**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 2018/19:

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:

Our Data Protection Officer: James Hart, at: j.hart@vaccinationuk.co.uk