

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child's annual flu immunisation is now due.

This immunisation is recommended to help protect your child against flu.

Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Immunising your child will also help to protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu.

Most children are offered a nasal spray immunisation which is a quick, simple and painless spray up the nose. Even if your child had the immunisation last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended to have it again this year or they won't be protected.

The nasal spray vaccine is the preferred vaccine. A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme is enclosed and includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate.

The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine) as an essential ingredient to keep it stable and able to work. For those who may not accept medicines or immunisations that contain porcine gelatine, an alternative flu injection is available. Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

Please complete your child's flu form by scanning the below QR code or visit our website:
<https://econsent.merseycare.nhs.uk/>



You can choose which type of flu immunisation you want your child to receive. If you decide you don't want your child to receive their flu immunisation, we kindly ask you to still complete their form, as this will help us plan and improve the service and avoid you receiving further calls and reminders from the service

Alternatively, if you are completing a paper consent form, please return it to school within three days of receiving it. The team will enter the information you provide onto the system and confidentially dispose of your form at the end of the flu campaign.

If after completing your child's form you visit a GP for their flu immunisation or wish to amend their form, you must contact the immunisation team directly and not your child's school.

Chair: Rosie Cooper

Chief Executive: Prof Joe Rafferty CBE

Please remember it's important to ensure your child has received two doses of MMR and their other routine immunisations. This will ensure they are fully protected against vaccine preventable diseases.

Please contact your local team if you require any help, support or have any queries who will be happy to help

Yours Sincerely

School Aged Immunisation Services

Additional Information for Childhood Immunisations

To get the best protection for your child, they need to have had two doses of MMR vaccine. For a checklist of the vaccines and the ages at which they should ideally be given visit:

www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

MMR for all leaflet



qrco.de/MMRFORALL

Preschool immunisations



qrco.de/PreSchool

Immunisations for young people



qrco.de/YoungPeopleImms

Liverpool Schools: 0151 295 3833
Knowsley Schools: 0151 351 8805
Sefton Schools: 0151 247 6130
St Helens Schools: 01744 415 645

or email mcn-tr.vacandimms.team@nhs.net
or email mcn-tr.knowsleyimmunisationteam@nhs.net
or email mcn-tr.seftonimmunisationteam@nhs.net
or email mcn-tr.immssth@nhs.net

Flu Immunisation consent form

Flu can be very unpleasant for children and sometimes may require hospital admission. Vaccination helps protect your child against flu and reduces the chance of others catching flu from them. Most children are offered nasal flu spray immunisation which is quick and easy to administer and offers the best protection for children. **Please complete the questions below as a small number of children cannot have the nasal spray because of medical conditions or treatments and can be offered protection through an alternative injectable flu immunization.** The nasal flu spray contains a small amount of gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine) to keep the immunisation stable. If you do not wish your child to have an immunisation containing porcine an injectable immunisation is available with no gelatine. Please complete the yellow box below Yes I want my child to have the alternative injectable flu immunisation due to. The school aged immunisation team can answer any questions you have. More information is available in leaflets found: www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters and www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Child's full name:		
Home address and postcode:		
NHS number: (if known)	Date of birth:	School year:
School:	Daytime telephone number for parent/guardian/carer:	
GP name and address:	Ethnicity:	

Has your child required steroid tablets in the last 2 weeks to manage their asthma? *	Yes []	No []
Does your child have a disease or treatment that severely affects their immune system? (e.g. Treatment for leukemia)	Yes []	No []
Is anyone in your family currently having treatment that severely affects their immune system? (e.g. they need to be kept in isolation)	Yes []	No []
Does your child have a severe egg allergy or severe allergy, anaphylactic reaction to anything? (Needing intensive care)	Yes []	No []
Is your child receiving salicylate therapy? (i.e. Aspirin)?	Yes []	No []
Does your child have a bleeding or bruising disorder?	Yes []	No []
Are there any other medical conditions or recent/planned medical treatment that the immunisation team should be aware of?	Yes []	No []

***Please inform the Immunisation team if your child's asthma deteriorates and you have had to increase their medication after you have returned this form.**

If you answered **YES** to any of the above, the Immunisation team may need to contact you for further information please include a contact telephone number.

Person with parental responsibility please complete one box below and add reason if not choosing nasal flu to help us understand your wishes, then return this form to the school office

YES, I want my child to have the nasal flu immunisation	NO I do not want my child to receive any flu immunisation due to	YES I want my child to have the alternative injectable flu immunisation due to
Parent/carer name:	Parent/carer name:	Parent/carer name:
Signature:	Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:	Date:

Thank you for completing this form. The information provided will be transcribed onto the Econsent system.

If you wish to amend your form or have attended the GP for your child's flu Immunisation you must contact your Local Immunisation Team directly and not leave messages with school.

Liverpool Schools: 0151 295 3833 or email mcn-tr.vacandimms.team@nhs.net
 Knowsley Schools: 0151 351 8805 or email mcn-tr.knowsleyimmunisationteam@nhs.net
 Sefton Schools: 0151 247 6130 or email mcn-tr.seftonimmunisationteam@nhs.net
 St Helens Schools: 01744 415 645 or email mcn-tr.immssth@nhs.net

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY. NURSE TO COMPLETE. Signature:
 Date:

Pre session triage

Child eligible for Flu Immunisation (consent form signed, no contraindications) Yes No
 Comments:

Assessment on session day

Heavy nasal congestion on the day of vaccination Yes No
 If the child has asthma, has the parent/carer/child reported:
 • use of oral steroids in the past 14 days? Yes No
 • has the parent/carer/child reported being wheezy, having an asthma attack or needing more reliever inhaler over the past three days? Yes No
 • Child eligible for LAIV Yes No If no, give details:
 • Child eligible for IIV Yes No If no, give details:

Assessment completed by (RN at session)
 Name:
 Signature:

Immunisation details

Date	Time	Immunisation Type (please circle)		Site of injection, if applicable (please circle)		Batch number	Expiry date
		LAIV	IIV	L arm	R arm		

Administration details (CSW) to be completed where supplied or (RN) vaccinating

Name:
 Signature:

Form Transcribed Information Please tick as Completed (Paper forms to be retained until end of campaign)			Transcribed by (Staff member)
Pre Session <input type="checkbox"/>	Post session (go to next box) <input type="checkbox"/>	Assessment and Vaccination details updated on Econsent <input type="checkbox"/>	

NB. Asthmatic children not eligible on the day of the session due to deterioration in their asthma control should be advised to attend their GP and offered inactivate immunisation if their condition doesn't improve within 72 hours to avoid a delay in vaccinating this 'at risk' group.

Additional Information:



UK Health
Security
Agency



Protect yourself against flu

Flu immunisation in England

Information for those in secondary school



Flu  mmunisation

Helping to protect you against flu

Flu vaccine is offered free to:

Children aged
2 or 3 years old

(on 31 August before
flu vaccinations start
in the autumn)



All primary
school-aged
children

Some secondary
school-aged
children



Children with a
health condition
that puts them
at greater risk
from flu

Further information on which children are eligible each year can be found at: www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Why should I have the flu vaccine?

Flu can be a very unpleasant illness causing fever, stuffy nose, dry cough, sore throat, aching muscles and joints, and extreme tiredness. This can last several days or more. Some people develop complications and need to go to hospital for treatment.

What are the benefits of the vaccine?

Having the vaccine will help protect you from what can be a very nasty illness. It can help you avoid having to miss out on the things you enjoy and disruption to your education.

Why are so many young people being offered the vaccine?

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and reduces the chance of you spreading flu to others so in turn helps protect your family and friends.

It will help to reduce flu levels in the population in the winter when there may be pressure on the NHS with COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses in circulation.

I had the flu vaccination last year. Do I need another one this year?

Yes; flu viruses change every year so the vaccine may be updated. For this reason, we recommend that you are vaccinated against flu again this year, even if vaccinated last year.

How will the vaccine be given?

It is usually given as a nasal spray.

So how does the nasal spray work?

The nasal spray contains viruses that have been weakened to prevent them from causing flu but will help you to build up immunity.

The vaccine is absorbed quickly in the nose so, even if you sneeze immediately after having had the spray, there's no need to worry that it hasn't worked.

Are there any side-effects of the vaccine?

You may develop a runny or blocked nose, headache, general tiredness and some loss of appetite. However, these are much less serious than developing flu and its complications. Serious side-effects are uncommon.

What if I am not feeling well on the day?

The vaccination may be delayed if you have a fever. Also, if you have a heavily blocked or runny nose, it might stop the vaccine getting into your system. In this case, the flu vaccination can be postponed until your nasal symptoms have cleared up. Sometimes an injected vaccine may be offered instead.



What about those young people who have a long-term health condition?

If you have a health condition that puts you at higher risk of serious complications from flu, you should have the flu vaccine every year. If you have one of these health conditions and are not in one of the groups being offered flu vaccine at school, you can also ask your GP surgery to give you the vaccine. You can also ask your GP surgery to do this if, for example, you don't want to wait until the school vaccination session.

Long term health conditions that put you more at risk from flu

These conditions include:

- serious breathing problems, such as asthma needing regular use of steroid inhaler or tablets
- serious heart conditions
- kidney or liver disease
- diabetes
- weakened immune system as a result of a condition or treatment with medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
- problems with the spleen, for example, sickle cell disease, or the spleen has been removed
- learning disability
- problems with the nervous system, such as cerebral palsy



Visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu for more information

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

The nasal spray vaccine is offered to young people as it is more effective in the programme than the injected vaccine. However, some young people with long term health conditions may not be able to have the nasal vaccine (see details below). Your parents will be given a consent form to complete ahead of the vaccination, which will include questions to check whether it is suitable for you. They can speak with the school immunisation team if they have any questions. If you cannot have the nasal spray, you will be offered an injectable flu vaccine.

Who shouldn't have the nasal vaccine?

Instead of the nasal spray vaccine, you should have an injected flu vaccine if you:

- are currently wheezy or have been wheezy in the past 72 hours
- have a very weakened immune system or someone in your household needs isolation because they are severely immunosuppressed
- have a condition that needs salicylate treatment
- have had an anaphylactic reaction to a flu vaccine, or any of the components, in the past (other than egg)

Young people who have been vaccinated with the nasal spray should avoid close contact with people with very severely weakened immune systems (for example those who have just had a bone marrow transplant) for around 2 weeks following vaccination. If contact is likely or unavoidable then an alternative flu vaccine should be given.

If you're not sure, check with the school immunisation team, or the nurse or GP at your surgery.

Your parents should seek the advice of your specialist, if you have:

- had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to egg in the past that required intensive care treatment
- asthma that's being treated with steroid tablets or required intensive care treatment in hospital

Does the nasal vaccine contain gelatine derived from pigs (porcine gelatine)?

Yes. The nasal vaccine contains a highly processed form of gelatine (porcine gelatine), which is used in a range of many essential medicines. The gelatine helps to keep the vaccine viruses stable so that the vaccine provides the best protection against flu.

The nasal vaccine is offered to children and young people as it is more effective in the programme than the injected vaccine. This is because it is easier to administer and considered better at reducing the spread of flu to others, who may be more vulnerable to the complications of flu. However, if you are at high risk from flu due to one or more medical conditions or treatments and can't have the nasal flu vaccine you should have the flu vaccine by injection. For those who may not accept the use of porcine gelatine in medical products, an alternative injectable vaccine is available. Your parents should discuss the options with the school immunisation team.

5 reasons to have the flu vaccine

1. Protect yourself.

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect your family and friends.

Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed.

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu.

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid lost opportunities.

If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

Where can I get more information?

Visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu for more information. Talk to the school immunisation team, your GP, or practice nurse if you have any further questions.



www.nhs.uk/vaccinations