

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's annual flu vaccination is now due.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. With COVID-19 in circulation it is more important than ever to reduce the number of those becoming ill with flu this winter to help protect them and the NHS.

The LAIV (nasal spray) is the primary choice of vaccine offered to most children as it is generally more effective than the inactivated injected vaccines in this age group. It is also easier to administer and considered better at reducing the spread of influenza to others who may be vulnerable to the complications of influenza. For further advice and details about the small number of children with medical conditions or treatments for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate, please click [HERE](#)

The LAIV nasal spray contains very small amounts of porcine gelatine, which is used as a stabiliser in the vaccine. Some people may not accept the use of porcine gelatine in medical products. For these children, there is an alternative inactivated injectable vaccine available in a school or clinic setting.

IMPORTANT: When indicating your request for the gelatine free inactivated injection please ensure that you have read the information included in this letter.

For more information relating to vaccines containing porcine gelatine, including information in other languages please click link: [HERE](#) and to visit the Oxford Knowledge Project who provide independent information about vaccines and infectious diseases click [HERE](#)

For information and support for Muslim communities please click [HERE](#) to visit the British Fatwa Council for their guidance on the Fluenz programme.

Please follow the link below to complete the consent form for your child.

[Flu Immunisation Consent Form \(for school aged children\) | NHFT](#)

Please ensure you submit your form within 3 days of receiving this letter to ensure your child receives their vaccination in school. Once the deadline closes you will only be able to access the vaccination from a community catch up clinic. If you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccination you are not required to submit the consent form, children will not be offered the vaccination without prior consent.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Please inform us immediately if any of the following occurs:

- If your child is unwell or has been off school in the 48 hours prior to vaccination.
- If your child has a temperature the day before or on the day of vaccination.
- If your child has been wheezy in the 48 hours prior to the vaccination session or they have had their asthma medication increased.
- If your child has taken or been commenced on oral steroids (not inhaled based) in the 2 weeks prior to the vaccination session.
- If your child has been given the vaccination elsewhere.

If you need to inform us of any changes on the day of vaccination, please contact your child's school.

For more information about the 2021/22 flu vaccination programme including leaflets in other languages, please click [HERE](#)
[The Flu Vaccination: Who should have it and why.](#)

If you have any medical queries, please contact the
School Aged Immunisation Service on **0800 170 7055 Option 5**

Please note: verbal consent requests for vaccination will not be taken on the above phonenumber once the e-consent link for your child's school has closed.

Yours sincerely,

NHFT School Aged Immunisation Service