

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 submit your e-consent as soon as possible with the link to your school closing 72 working hours prior to your session, the school will advise you of this date.

Once the deadline closes you will only be able to access the vaccination from a community catch up clinic.

Verbal consents will not be taken after the link closes **and will pupils NOT be able to self-consent for this vaccine.**

If you wish to book your child into one of our community clinics before the school session date, please do not complete an e-consent and contact our admin hub on the number below to book an appointment.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

If you have completed an e-consent for a school-based session and then your child receives their vaccine at the GP surgery because they have been identified as being in a clinical risk group, please read the following:

- IF the link to your child's school e-consent is still open, please re-submit form with a **NO** consent citing "vaccine received at GP surgery on.....{date}.."
- IF link is closed please call us on 0800 170 7055 option 5
- If you have **NOT** already completed an e-consent there is no need to do anything, we will not offer self-consent to your child at the school session.

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 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 follow links below

[2021-22 Flu Programme for Children](#)

[The Flu Vaccination: Who should have it and why.](#)

[Eligible Groups](#)

If you have any medical queries, or wish to book a clinic appointment please contact the
School Aged Immunisation Service on **0800 170 7055 Option 5**

Please note:

Parental verbal consent for vaccination will not be taken on the above phonenumber either before or after the e-consent link for your child's school has closed.

Children absent/unwell on the day of the school session will be offered the opportunity to be booked into a community clinic along with those who missed the e-consent deadline.

Yours sincerely,

NHFT School Aged Immunisation Service



Northamptonshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust