

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 offered to children as it is generally more effective than the injected vaccines. 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.

However, for children whose parents or guardians object to LAIV on grounds of porcine gelatine the alternative injectable form of the vaccine will be available in a school or clinic setting. Please indicate your preference when completing the consent form below.

For more information relating to vaccines containing porcine gelatine please follow link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/933552/Vaccines_porcine_gelatine_2020_A4.pdf

For the specific date of your child's school session please refer to your school communications.

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 48 hours 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 inhaler 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 further advice and details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters/protect-yourself-against-flu-information-for-parents-and-carers-of-preschool-and-primary-school-aged-children>

For more information about the 2021/22 flu vaccination programme including leaflets in other languages, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters>

If you have any queries, please contact the School Aged Immunisation Team on **0800 170 7055**

Yours sincerely

School Aged Immunisation Team