

Nasal Flu Vaccine

Flu is a very unpleasant and highly contagious illness. Some of the symptoms are fever, dry cough, sore throat, achy muscles and extreme tiredness that can last for several days or more. There can also be serious complications of flu such as pneumonia and bronchitis.

We offer the nasal flu vaccination vaccine to all children in reception, yr 1, yr 2, yr 3, yr 4, yr 5 within Coventry, Warwickshire, Solihull, Worcestershire and Herefordshire. If your child is in year 6 at a special school they may be eligible to receive this vaccination. If your child does not receive the immunisation within the school setting we do undertake clinics within the local community which your child can attend to receive the vaccination. We want to make sure every child who is eligible can receive the vaccine therefore we offer extra support to those who may require it. Please contact us for further information about this.

- The flu vaccine is delivered between October – January each year. The flu vaccine is an annual vaccine therefore children need to receive this every year to be protected against the correct flu strains.
- Please see the individual tabs on the main webpage for the schedule for your local area and the dates of the community clinics which you can book onto. Please note the schedules are subject to change.

Useful links

- [Easy Read Flu leaflet](#)
- [Flu leaflet](#)
- [Leaflet for head teachers](#)
- [NHS vaccinations webpage www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations)
- [Patient information leaflet Fluenz tetra](#)



On the day of the vaccination a team of nurses, health care assistants and administration support will attend your child's school. Your child will be called up with their peers. Please see the video at the top of this page for the process. Please also share the video with your children to help them understand the process.

Why should my child have the flu vaccine?

The nasal spray is given to children within the age range stated above to protect them from contracting the flu virus. It not only protects your child from the flu virus but it also helps protect your child spreading the virus to other members of your family, especially those who may be more vulnerable due to their age or because they have an underlying medical condition.

How is the vaccine delivered?

The flu vaccine that is delivered to your child is given as a single dose of nasal spray squirted up each nostril. It is needle free and is the preferred method as it provides better protection than the injected vaccine. It is an extremely quick and completely painless method to protect your child from contracting the flu.

How does the nasal spray work?

The spray contains viruses that have been weakened to prevent them from causing flu but will help your child build up immunity so when your child comes into contact with the flu virus they will be less likely to get ill.

Can all children receive the nasal vaccine?

There is a very small amount of children who may not be able to receive the vaccine. The consent form that you will receive aids us to determine if your child is within this group, that is why it is extremely important that you answer every question and share any extra relevant information that is asked. If your child is within one of the following groups please ensure you share this information on the consent form. Your child will not be able to receive the nasal spray if:

- Is receiving salicylate therapy
- Is severely immunosuppressed
- Has had a confirmed allergic reaction to a previous dose of the nasal flu vaccine or any component within it
- Has been or remains to be taking oral steroids for respiratory disease 14 days before the vaccine is administered

Can anyone else receive the vaccine?

The school aged immunisation service purely deliver the vaccine to the children in the above cohort however Public Health England commission other health agency's to deliver flu immunisations to certain other groups of people. Please contact your GP or visit the NHS Flu vaccination page for more information about this.

Porcine gelatine

The nasal spray vaccine contains a tiny amount of gelatine of pork origin used during the manufacturing process. Gelatine is commonly used in the manufacture of lots of other medicines and the trace in the flu nasal spray in the final product is a completely changed substance.

In 2001, the World Health Organisation (WHO) offered guidance on this subject. The scholars agreed that the advice to Muslim families is that gelatine of pork origin used in vaccines and other medicines is judicially permissible. Use of this substance in the flu nasal spray vaccine has also been approved by representatives of the Jewish community. However we always respect that this is an individual parents choice to decide if they wish for their child to receive the vaccine or not

For further information about porcine gelatine and the nasal flu vaccine, click [here](#).

Measles

In 2017/18 the West Midlands has seen an increase across all age groups in this highly infectious viral illness that can be very unpleasant and sometimes lead to serious complications. Please note, all children/young people up to 18 years of age should have received 2 doses of the MMR vaccination (normally given by 5 years of age). It is important for you to contact your GP if they have not received these 2 doses as they can still receive the vaccination. (The immunisation team are unfortunately unable to offer the MMR vaccination).