Working on behalf of NHS England

Vaccination UK

Influenza (Nasal Flu) immunisation for pupils in school years R - 6

Dear Parent/Carer,

We will soon be visiting your child's school to offer the free flu vaccine to all eligible children from reception to year 6. The nasal flu vaccine is painless, quick, and side effects are uncommon and generally mild. All pupils in special needs schools are eligible for the influenza immunisation.

Please note this is not the Covid vaccination.

This winter, now that life is back to normal, there is a very high risk that the NHS could be overwhelmed with illness caused by influenza, as we have not been mixing with others as much over the past few winters.

Children who have the flu vaccine are less likely to pass the virus on to friends and family, especially those who may be at greater risk from flu, such as young babies, elderly people or friends and relatives with a serious health condition.

Attached are some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about this vaccine.

You can now complete consent for your child online. Please click - https://london.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2022/islington to give consent, or to decline consent.

It is important to complete and return the form even if you do not want your child to have the vaccine. If you choose not to complete the consent, this does NOT mean that you have refused the vaccine for your son or daughter.

For parents who want their child to have the vaccine that does **not** contain porcine gelatine, you can also do this by using the consent link above. If you wish for your child to receive the injection, please say no to the nasal flu vaccine, you will then be taken to the page where you can consent for the injection instead.

You can also speak to your immunisation team if you require a consent form in a language other than English, or you can find them in other languages on our website: www.schoolvaccination.uk

If your child has asthma and becomes wheezy or has their medication increased after you return this form, please contact the immunisation team on the number or email over the page.

We encourage you to share this information with your child / children.

Yours Faithfully,

Kind Regards,
Islington School Immunisation team

Vaccination UK
Resource For London | 356 Holloway Road | London | N7 6PA
T: (+44) 0208 017 7925

www.schoolvaccination.uk

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Immunisation Team Information

London:

Barking & Dagenham	BarkingandDagenham@v-uk.co.uk	0203 343 2400
Hackney	Hackney@v-uk.co.uk	0207 613 8370
Haringey	Haringey@v-uk.co.uk	0208 017 7925
Havering	Havering@v-uk.co.uk	0203 343 2400
Islington	Islington@v-uk.co.uk	0208 017 7926
Newham	Newham@v-uk.co.uk	0208 214 1393
Redbridge	Redbridge@v-uk.co.uk	0203 343 2400
Tower Hamlets	Towerhamlets@v-uk.co.uk	0207 613 9422
Waltham Forest	Walthamforest@v-uk.co.uk	0208 017 4291

Additional Information:

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:

- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

- *Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.*

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Additional information about Fluenz Nasal Flu Immunisation:

Are there any side effects of the vaccine?

Possible side effects are: decreased appetite, headache, a runny or blocked nose, or a mild temperature. These are common, but they pass quickly and can be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen if you feel your child needs it. These are more common with the first ever dose of flu vaccine and should reduce with doses in the following years. For treatment of mild side effects, it is fine to take paracetamol according to the manufacturer's directions, or alternatively, ibuprofen can be given provided your child is able to take this.

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

You should let us know if your child has any of the following:
A **very severe** allergy to eggs, egg proteins, gentamicin or gelatine – it is important for us to know if your child has been admitted to hospital with a condition called anaphylaxis, triggered by these things.
Are currently wheezy or have been wheezy in the past **72 hours with asthma**. There is an alternative flu vaccine that we can talk to you about to ensure that your child is protected as soon as possible.
Have a condition that severely weakens their immune system.

Also, children who have been vaccinated should avoid *close* contact with people with very severely weakened immune systems for around two weeks following vaccination. This is because there's an extremely remote chance that the vaccine virus may be passed to them.

Contact with other healthy children or adults does not need to be limited after having the vaccine.

Can the vaccine strain of flu be spread to others who have not been vaccinated? (Viral shedding)

Unvaccinated contacts are ***not at risk*** of becoming seriously ill with the weakened flu vaccine virus, either through being in the same room where flu vaccine has been given, or by being in contact with a recently vaccinated pupil. No 'mist' of vaccine virus escapes into the air and therefore, there is no need for any child or staff member to be excluded from school during the period when the vaccine is being offered or in the following days. The tiny number of children who are extremely immunocompromised (for example those who have just had a bone marrow transplant), are already advised not to attend school because of the much higher risk of contact with other infections that spread in schools.
Although vaccinated children do shed vaccine virus for a few days after vaccination, the virus is less able to spread from person to person than the natural infection. The amount of virus shed is normally below that needed to spread infection to others and the virus does not survive for long outside of the body. This is in contrast to natural flu infection, which spreads easily during the flu season. In schools where vaccine is being offered therefore, the overall risk of contact with influenza viruses is massively reduced by having most children vaccinated.

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Additional information:

Vaccination UK Privacy Notice;

Who is collecting the data?
Vaccination UK is collecting information about your child to ensure that we have up to date health information about their health at the time that you are consenting for them to receive an immunisation. Their demographic information is used to ensure that we identify their electronic health record accurately.

What data is being collected?
We ask for basic demographic data to allow us to identify them and their health record. The information about their health is utilised by the nurses to ensure that they can confirm that the immunisation is suitable for them.

What is the legal basis for processing the data?
Section 9 (2)(h) of the Data Protection Act 2018 allows for processing of your child's data for the provision of direct healthcare and the management of healthcare systems.

Will the data be shared with any third parties?
Your child's data will be shared with their General Practice (GP) and with the child health information system (CHIS) which holds immunisation and screening information for all children in the UK.

How will the information be used?
We collect data on consent forms to allow us to identify a person's health record if you have consented to their immunisation and to allow the nurses to make decisions about their care based on the most up to date information about their current health.

How long will the data be stored for?
The information will be stored on their electronic health record after their vaccination; this information will be then be available throughout their lifetime. Their paper records will be destroyed once they have been scanned on to their record.

What rights does the data subject have?
Data subjects have the right to request a copy of any data we request or record about them.

How can you contact us with queries or concerns about this privacy notice?
If you have any queries or concerns regarding the information that we hold about your child or have a question regarding this notice, please contact us.