



Department
of Health



Public Health
England

NHS
England

Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust



Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

Parent/ Carer Information Pack

2019/20



Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Seasonal Influenza Vaccinations (flu) for Children from Reception to Year 6

This autumn the school aged immunisation team will be returning to your child's school to offer the seasonal flu vaccination to all children aged 4 to 10 turning 11 years old (date of birth between the 1st September 2008 and the 31st August 2015). This is an increase in one year group since the last seasonal flu delivery, with the addition of year 6. There may be some children in Reception year and years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 who might be outside of these date ranges (e.g. if a child has been accelerated or held back a year) but it is acceptable to offer and deliver immunisations to these children with their class peers.

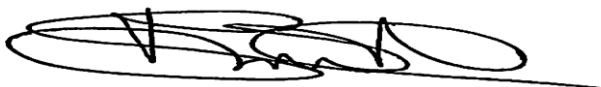
Flu can be a very unpleasant illness in children, with serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia. Annual immunisation provides important protection to individual children and helps reduce the spread of flu to their friends, families and the wider community, protecting younger siblings, grandparents and others who are at increased risk of becoming seriously ill from flu.

The vaccination is free and is a quick and simple spray up the nose. Even if your child had it last year, it is recommended to have the flu vaccine again this year. Consent forms and additional information will be issued via schools in the autumn term. **We are hoping to change to Electronic Consent in the foreseeable future and if this changes in time for the autumn term we will notify you.** The national Public Health England leaflet should answer all your questions and can be viewed via:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/714954/PHE_Protecting_Child_Flu_DL_leaflet.pdf

Should you have any problems or queries please do not hesitate to contact the Immunisation team for your locality found within the contacts page.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Smith
Immunisation Service Manager for the School Aged Immunisation Team

Your Child's Personal Information

Immunisation is one of the most successful and cost effective health protection interventions and is a cornerstone of public health. High immunisation rates are key to preventing the spread of infectious disease, complications and possible early death among individuals and protecting the population's health through both individual and herd immunity. Due to the significant impact of immunisations on school aged children and the wider population it is really important that the Immunisation team can access and share patient identifiable information (on eligible children) securely. Without this information we would not be able to fully monitor/ report and offer vaccination to all eligible cohorts which could lead to poor public health outcomes.

When you and your child use our services, we'll ask for and record your child's personal and health information to help us treat your child now and in the future. We may share your child's information with other organisations to assist with giving your child the best care possible, only information that is required and appropriate to support your child's care and treatment will be provided. To find out more about how we use your child's information please visit the Berkshire Healthcare website to see our Privacy Notice: <https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/protecting-your-data-privacy-notice/>

At the beginning of the autumn term you will receive a consent form for your child to receive their Influenza vaccine. The information collected within the consent form will be shared with your child's GP following vaccination so that their health records can be updated accordingly. The consent form will then be stored and archived securely by Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust following their Record Keeping Policy.

If you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccine or they have been given it elsewhere due to underlying medical conditions we would still like you to complete their consent form to indicate this so that we can accurately report numbers of students back to NHS England. **Please note** that unless your child has an underlying medical condition that puts them in an 'at risk' group for flu they will be unable to access this vaccine from your GP surgery.

For further queries please contact BHFT's data protection officer via the details below:

Email: information.governance@berkshire.nhs.uk

Telephone number: 01344 415600

Parent Checklist for Flu



Please note if your child has never received a flu vaccine before, is aged 4 to 9 years and is considered to be in an 'at risk' medical group they will require two doses of their flu vaccine (4 weeks apart). The second dose will either be given in school or via a community clinic.

- **Please inform the immunisation team if your child has their flu vaccination at the GP surgery (only children who have an underlying medical condition that puts them 'at risk' and whose parents/carers do not wish to delay are eligible to have the flu vaccine at their GP surgery).**
- **If your child has an inhaler or an auto injector (epipen, jext, emerade) they need to have this on their person during the immunisation session.**



If your child is unwell on the day of the session we will record this on their record card and invite you to make a community clinic appointment as soon as possible (you will receive notification of how to do this). If your child is unable to have the nasal flu vaccine due to their medical history, we will be able to offer them an alternative injectable vaccine via our community clinic and will notify you of how to arrange this.

As a service we sign and complete all consent forms for children who have been vaccinated and then notify the child's GP so that their health records can be updated. Any absent children who have returned (signed) consent forms requesting the vaccine will be sent recall letters inviting them to a community clinic.

Please note if you do not return a consent form for your child you may not automatically receive a letter/ call to book into a community catch up clinic. Therefore if you still would like your child vaccinated please call the relevant immunisation team on the contact details listed within this pack.

Contact Details for the School Aged Immunisation Team

Berkshire West Team

Including schools based within Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire

Contact Number:

Contact Number (for all queries): 01189 207575

Email Address: SchoolImmunisationTeam@berkshire.nhs.uk

Berkshire East Team

Including schools based within Bracknell, Windsor, Ascot, Maidenhead and Slough

Contact Number (for all queries): 01753 636759

Email Address: SchoolImmunisationTeam@berkshire.nhs.uk