

This letter contains important information about your child's flu vaccination.
Please submit the consent form online as soon as possible.



Childhood Flu Vaccination Programme 2021

Autumn Term 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Your child's annual flu vaccination is due on
06-Oct-21 at Fitzharrys School**

Flu is caused by the influenza virus. It can be a very unpleasant illness for children and can lead to serious problems, such as bronchitis and pneumonia. Children can catch and spread flu easily. Vaccinating them also protects others who are vulnerable to flu, such as babies and older people.

The children's nasal spray flu vaccine is safe and effective. It's offered every year to children to help protect them against flu, as part of the UK childhood vaccination schedule.

This year, the school-based Flu vaccination programme is being extended to include **all children from Reception up to and including Year 11**. This is because protecting more children against flu is particularly important as COVID-19 is still circulating and people at risk of flu are also vulnerable to the complications of COVID-19.

Further information about the vaccination is available on our website: www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/school-health-nurses. Please be aware that the date of your child's vaccination may be subject to change.

The vaccination is usually given as a quick and simple spray up the nose. It is quick and painless. The nasal vaccination contains trace amount of Porcine Gelatine (a safe ingredient derived from pork), so if this is not suitable for your child, you can choose for them to have an intramuscular injection instead which does not contain this ingredient. Please remember that the injection is not as effective for children as the nasal spray and that it may cause your child more distress to have an injection. Both types of vaccination will be given in school, wherever possible, without the need for a parent to be present.

If you agree for your child to receive the Flu vaccine at school, you must complete the online consent form on the following page.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan Mahoney'.

Susan Mahoney
Immunisation Team Leader, School Health Nursing

FLU VACCINATION CONSENT FORM

To access the consent form please click on the following link:

[Vaccination Consent \(www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk\)](http://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk)

You will need the following information to complete the form:

1. The unique code for your child's school, which is: **OX146392**
2. Your child's NHS Number

If you are not sure of your child's NHS number, please follow these steps:

1. Check your child's red book or a clinic letter to find the 10 digit number
1. Use the online NHS number finder [link here](#)
2. Contact your GP surgery through their online/email advice line (where available)
3. If these options aren't successful, phone your GP surgery and speak to a receptionist

If you experience any problems completing the online consent form, please contact us at: immunisationteam@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk or call 07920 254 400.

Please submit your form at least 2 full school days before the session date to ensure your child receives their vaccination. The link will close on this date. If you do not submit the form in time, it will not be possible for your child to have the vaccine at school and you will have to make alternative arrangements.

Important additional information for parents and carers

Please read the following information carefully.

Information leaflet - A leaflet is available [here](#) (primary school age) which explains the vaccination programme. If you require a paper copy, please contact the Immunisation Team Administrator. It is important that you read this leaflet carefully and discuss with your child so that you are fully informed to provide consent for your child and for them to be prepared to receive the vaccination.

Further information is also available at: www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Children at high risk from flu - If your child is at high risk from flu because they have one or more medical conditions but is unable to have the nasal flu vaccine, we recommend they are given the flu vaccine by injection. Children at high risk are offered the flu vaccine each year by their GP and you can choose if you would like your child to be vaccinated by the Immunisation Team at school or at your registered GP surgery. This includes children with Asthma who require continuous or repeated use of an inhaled or oral **steroid** treatment or who have had previous episodes of asthma requiring hospital admission.

Asthma or other illness – We may not be able to vaccinate your child on the arranged date if your child

- is unwell on the day of vaccination

or

- if they are currently taking or have been prescribed steroid tablets to control their asthma in the two weeks prior to the vaccination session in school

or

- if they have a history of active wheezing in the 3 days prior to the vaccination session and/or have increased the use of their Bronchodilator in the 3 days prior to the vaccination session in school

or

- If they have increased the use of their inhaled steroids since the consent form was completed

It is therefore very important that you inform both your School Health Nurse Assistant on the number below and your school office before 08:45 on the day of vaccination if any of the above apply.

Catch up vaccination sessions – Your child will only be offered the vaccine in school once. If your child is unwell or absent on the day of vaccination, the immunisation team (not your GP) will offer catch up appointments in clinics out of school. These clinics will be limited, so the best place for your child to receive this vaccine is at school. If you have submitted a consent form you will receive an email explaining how to book this appointment.

Declining the offer of flu vaccination - If you decide you do not want to vaccinate your child against flu, please complete and submit the consent form refusing the vaccination. Please do this also if your child has already been vaccinated elsewhere or has booked to have the vaccine at their GP Surgery as they are in a high-risk group. If you are able to share with us why you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccine at school, this will help us plan and improve our service.

Withdrawing Consent – If you have submitted the form but wish to withdraw your consent, please **submit another consent form refusing the vaccination at least 2 full school days before the vaccination session.**

Please ensure you also make further contact as below:

1. Ring and speak to the Immunisation Team Administrator on the number below
2. Inform your school before 08:45 on the day of vaccination and request that your message is given to the School Nursing team coming to your school.

Contacting the Flu Immunisation Team	
School Health Nurse Assistant On the day of vaccination please call this number	Immunisation Team Administrator
07557 204192	Amy Ellis
For <u>non-urgent enquiries</u> please email: ImmunisationTeam@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk Please note this is only checked weekly.	
Further information is also available on our website at: https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/school-health-nurses/immunisations/flu-immunisations/	