



Department  
of Health



Public Health  
England

**NHS**  
*England*

Berkshire Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust



# Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

## Parent/ Carer Information Pack

### SEN Schools

# 2019/20



Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Seasonal Influenza Vaccinations (Flu) For Children from Reception Year Onwards**

This autumn the school immunisation team will be returning to your child's school to offer the seasonal flu vaccination to all children aged 4 to 19 years. Children in nursery with a date of birth after the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 **will be** offered this vaccine via their GP surgery and **will not** be able to get via the School Aged Immunisation Team. If your child attends an SEN school and has complex medical needs, that puts them more at risk of Influenza they may also be offered their seasonal flu vaccine via their GP, if they do have this at their GP or via their consultant we would be grateful if you could still complete their consent form and let us know that they have had this done so we can update our records accordingly.

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 either a quick and simple spray up the nose or an injectable vaccine in their arm (dependant on your child's medical needs). 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](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 only children who have an underlying medical condition that puts them in an 'at risk' group for flu will be able to access this vaccine from their GP surgery.

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

Email: [information.governance@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto: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 with 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 auto injector (epipen, jext, emerade) they need to have this with them during the immunisation session.**



If your child is unwell on the day of the session we will record this on their record card and we will aim to either return to your child's school at a later date (when they are well) or offer them an alternative vaccine (if you are in agreement) e.g. they may need the injectable vaccine due to their medical history or they might need their nasal flu vaccine delayed until they are well.

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 and invited 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.**

## **Preparing Your Child For Their Flu Vaccination**

With the exception of Reception and children whose parents/carers previously declined the vaccination most children who consent to the flu vaccination would have received this vaccine previously so should know what to expect. Very young children and children with special education needs may need further preparation to ensure that they are ready for the vaccination in the autumn term. Below are some suggestions of how you can prepare your child for this vaccination:

### **Flu Video:**

<https://www.nhs.uk/video/Pages/flu-heroes-nasal-flu-spray-for-kids.aspx?offset=17>

### **Easy read leaflets:**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/651667/Easy\\_read\\_childhood\\_nasal\\_flu\\_leaflet.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/651667/Easy_read_childhood_nasal_flu_leaflet.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/637939/PHE\\_Flu\\_easy\\_read\\_adult\\_flu\\_leaflet.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/637939/PHE_Flu_easy_read_adult_flu_leaflet.pdf)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:SchoolImmunisationTeam@berkshire.nhs.uk)