



**Berkshire School-aged Immunisation Team**

Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

E: [Eastschoolimms@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:Eastschoolimms@berkshire.nhs.uk)

T: 0300 365 0077 option 1

W: [Berkshire School-Aged Immunisation Team | Children Young People and Families Online Resource \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](https://berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)

Date: Autumn Term 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Your child's flu vaccination is now due.**

We are contacting you to make you aware that your child is now eligible for their flu vaccination. This is something that we offer to all children from Reception to Year 9.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. There may be a rebound in flu levels this coming winter following low levels in the past 2 years as a result of Covid-19 restrictions.

We will be visiting your child's school (**Eden Girls School**) on **05 December 2022**. Please complete the electronic consent form (one for each child) via [Immunisation Consent \(berkshireimmunisations.co.uk\)](https://berkshireimmunisations.co.uk) and insert your schools unique code: **(BK141970)**. This form should be submitted by 9am 24 working hours before your session to ensure your child receives their vaccinations. If you experience any problems accessing the form, please telephone 0300 365 0077 and the team will be happy to help you.

We ask for your child's NHS number on all consent forms, this allows your child's immunisation to be recorded on their GP records. The NHS number can be found via [Find your NHS number - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

The vaccination is free and is a quick, simple, and painless spray up the nose. Even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended to have it again this year or they will not be protected.

Gelatine from pork is a common ingredient in drugs including the nasal flu vaccine. It is a stabiliser that helps to keep the vaccine safe and effective during storage. The gelatine used in vaccines is different from that in foods as it is highly processed and broken down into small fragments. To read further information on this visit [Gelatine in vaccines | Vaccine Knowledge \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk) The most effective flu vaccine for children is

the live attenuated nasal spray. If you decline the nasal spray due to its porcine content, you will be taken to a link to consent to an alternative porcine free vaccine. Please be aware this is an injectable vaccine.

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme is enclosed and includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

**If your child becomes wheezy, has a bad attack of asthma, or has started oral steroids for their asthma after you return this form, please contact the School Aged Immunisation Team on 0300 365 0077.**

If you decide you do not want to vaccinate your child against flu, please select no consent, giving the reason. This will help us plan and improve the service.

**For further information see:** [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

**\*Is your child up to date with their routine childhood vaccinations?** Vaccination saves lives and is the most important thing we can do to protect ourselves and our children against ill health. Please contact us using the details above if your child is outstanding any vaccinations.

Thank you in advance.

Kind Regards,

**The Berkshire School Aged Immunisation Team**

