

31 July 2024

W: cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/immunisation-service

Dear Parent/Carer





Your child's flu vaccination is now due.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. We offer it to all children from Reception to Year 11.

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

We will be visiting your child's school **Maiden Erlegh Reading** on **Monday 2nd December 2024**. Please complete the electronic consent form using the link below (one for each child) and insert your schools unique code: **BK141886**

- The **most effective** flu vaccine for children is the **live attenuated nasal spray**. It is a quick, simple, and painless spray up the nose. The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of purified porcine gelatine as an essential ingredient to keep it stable and able to work.
- If your child is unable to have the nasal flu vaccine due to the porcine gelatine, then there is an **alternative injectable flu vaccine**, which is porcine free. To read further information on this visit [Gelatine in vaccines | Vaccine Knowledge \(ox.ac.uk\)](http://Gelatine in vaccines | Vaccine Knowledge (ox.ac.uk)). The enclosed leaflet includes details for the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate.

<p>Flu nasal spray (contains small amounts of porcine gelatine)</p> 	<p>To give consent for your child to receive the nasal flu vaccine please complete the following consent form:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Consent for Flu Nasal Spray</u></p>	
<p>Injectable flu vaccine (porcine free)</p> 	<p>If you decline the nasal spray due to its porcine content, please use this link to consent to an injectable form of flu vaccine:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Consent for Injectable Form of Flu Vaccine (Porcine Free)</u></p> <p>please note this is given via injection in the upper arm.</p>	

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. A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme is enclosed.

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 at [Find your NHS number - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

The consent form should be submitted by 9am, one full school day 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.

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.

If you have completed a consent form and wish to withdraw consent or your child has received the vaccination at their GP prior to the school session please email withdrawconsentimms@berkshire.nhs.uk with your child's name, date of birth and school. Please also send a letter in with your child on the day of the school session containing the above information.

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.

For further information see: www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Vaccination saves lives and is the most important thing we can do to protect ourselves and our children against ill health. **Is your child up to date with their routine childhood vaccinations? To find out what vaccines are recommended please visit [NHS vaccinations and when to have them - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk),**

Please contact us using the details above if your child is outstanding any vaccinations.

Thank you in advance.

Kind Regards,

Berkshire Immunisation Team

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