Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

School Flu Vaccination Programme 2026 – Mainstream Schools

Your child is now eligible for their free annual flu vaccine

Help protect your child from flu this winter

The free flu vaccine helps protect children, families and school communities before winter, when flu can spread more easily.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please complete your child's flu consent form today

YES – I would like my child vaccinated **OR** **NO – I do not want my child vaccinated**

We need to record a response for every eligible child. Please submit a **YES** or **NO** consent form, even if your child has already had a flu vaccine since September 2026.

Families who have not submitted a form may receive reminders from the Immunisation Team.

Consent closes at 9am one full school day before the vaccination session.

Use the correct link below for the nasal spray or injectable flu vaccine consent form.

Nasal Flu Vaccination Consent Form Link

Injectable Flu Vaccination Consent Form Link

School: **Maiden Erlegh Reading**

Vaccination date: **25/11/2026**

Why are we offering flu vaccination?

Flu spreads easily in schools and can cause fever, tiredness, cough, sore throat and time off school. Vaccination helps protect your child and reduces the chance of flu spreading to family, friends and vulnerable people.

5 reasons to choose flu vaccination

Protect your child	Protect family & friends	Simple nasal spray (for most)	Better than having flu	Less time off school

What vaccine will my child receive?

Most children will be offered a quick, needle-free nasal spray. The nasal flu vaccine contains a small amount of porcine gelatine. If the nasal spray is not medically suitable, an injectable flu vaccine may be offered instead.

You can also choose the injectable vaccine when completing the consent form for personal, religious or other reasons. The injectable flu vaccine does not contain porcine gelatine.

Before you complete the form

When completing the consent form, please include any allergies, medication, medical conditions, communication or sensory needs, and any extra support your child may need.

If you need translation support or information in another language, please contact us.

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DON'T FORGET - Consent closes at 9am one full school day before vaccination (Late responses may mean we are unable to vaccinate your child in school)

Information is available in alternative languages and accessible formats.

Important additional information

✓ Who is eligible?

Children and young people in year groups Reception up to year 11 are eligible for their annual flu vaccination.

✓ If your child does not currently attend school

Please still complete a YES or NO consent form using the school code provided, then contact the Immunisation Team on 0300 365 0077 to discuss a suitable community clinic appointment.

✓ Changing or withdrawing consent

If you have submitted a YES consent form and later wish to change this to NO, please email **withdrawconsentimms@berkshire.nhs.uk** at least 24 hours before the planned vaccination session. Please include your child's full name, date of birth and school. Please also send a letter with your child on the day of the school session for the attention of the Immunisation Team.

✓ If your child is absent on the day

If your child is absent from the school session and you have submitted a YES consent form, we will email you with details of any available community catch-up clinics.

✓ Routine childhood vaccinations

This is also a good time to check whether your child is up to date with their routine childhood vaccinations. If you are unsure, please contact your GP practice or speak to the Immunisation Team for advice.

✓ More information

- Protecting your child against flu; Information for parents and carers
- Protect yourself against flu; Information for those in secondary school
- Information for parents and carers of school age children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities - GOV.UK
- Flu vaccination for children: leaflets and posters - GOV.UK **(click here for information in different languages)**

✓ Contact the Immunisation Team

Email: **Berkshire.SAIS@berkshire.nhs.uk**
Telephone: 0300 365 0077

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Parent/carer flu vaccination checklist

Please read these important points before submitting your child's flu consent form.

✓ Annual protection

Your child should have the flu vaccine every year because the types of flu can change each winter. Even if they had it last year, they need it again this year to stay protected.

✓ Nasal spray or injection

Most children are offered the nasal spray vaccine. It contains a very small amount of porcine gelatine to keep it stable. If the nasal spray is not suitable or you do not accept medicines containing porcine gelatine, you can request the injectable flu vaccine instead.

✓ Tell us about health changes

After submitting the form, please contact the Immunisation team if your child becomes wheezy, has a bad asthma attack, or starts oral steroids for asthma before the vaccination session.

✓ Please respond even if you say no

If you do not want your child to have the flu vaccine, please still submit the consent form and tell us the reason. This helps us plan and improve the service.

Quick checklist before you submit

Use this quick checklist to make sure you have included everything we need before you submit your child's consent form.

☐ I have chosen YES or NO on the consent form.

☐ I have included allergies, medication, medical conditions and any support needs.

☐ I understand nasal spray is offered to most children, but an injection can be requested.

☐ I know to contact the team if my child's asthma or wheezing changes before vaccination.

☐ I have submitted the form before the 9am deadline.