



**Berkshire School-aged Immunisation Team**

Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

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

T: 0300 365 0077

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W: [cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/immunisation-service](https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/immunisation-service)

Dear Parent/Carer

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

This is something that we offer to all children from Reception to Year 13.

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

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. A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme is enclosed.

We will be visiting your child's school **The Castle** on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. Please complete the electronic consent form (one for each child) via [Immunisation Consent \(berkshireimmunisations.co.uk\)](https://immunisationconsent.berkshireimmunisations.co.uk) and insert your schools unique code: **BK110182** This 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.

The most effective flu vaccine for children is the live attenuated nasal spray. 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 you decline the nasal spray due to its porcine content, please use this link <https://www.berkshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/FluIM> and insert your schools unique code: **BK110182** to consent to an alternative porcine free vaccine. Please be aware this is an injectable vaccine. To read further information on this visit [Gelatine in vaccines | Vaccine Knowledge \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.vaccineknowledge.org.uk/gelatine-in-vaccines). The enclosed leaflet includes details for the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate.

**This year all completed consent forms (yes or no consents) will be entered into a prize draw for the opportunity to win a £50 Amazon voucher.**

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)

**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 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. Please contact us so we can arrange this.

**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](mailto: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.**

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

