

0-19 Public Health Nursing Service

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Email Address: [FluVaccinationEnquiries.DHSC@gov.im](mailto:FluVaccinationEnquiries.DHSC@gov.im)

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Seasonal childhood flu immunisation programme 2024/2025**

This year, the School Vaccination Team will be offering the seasonal childhood nasal flu vaccine to children in school years Reception to Year 11, and will be visiting schools in September and October.

The vaccine is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect other vulnerable family members and friends, by preventing the spread of the flu virus.

Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is a quick, simple and painless spray up the nose. A small number of children will require the flu vaccine via injection which is available via your GP surgery.

The link to information explaining the vaccination programme is [www.gov.im/childhoodflu](http://www.gov.im/childhoodflu)

This webpage has details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate. The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine) as an essential ingredient to keep it stable and able to work. For those who may not accept medicines or vaccines that contain porcine gelatine, a flu vaccine injection is available.

The vaccine is given as a 0.1mls of liquid into each nostril, so there are no needles and it is a safe method of delivery for most children. Please follow this link to view our new nasal flu video which demonstrates what happens at each school vaccination session.(link to be added)

The link to an electronic consent form is attached below for you to complete and submit.

**You only need to complete the form if you want your child to receive the vaccine and please only complete one consent form to avoid the risk of duplication.**

Alternatively, there are hard copies of the consent form available at your child's school reception. We would ask that you complete the consent form no later than **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

<https://www.gov.im//flu-immunisation-consent-form>

On the consent form, you will be asked a series of questions about your child's health, to assess their eligibility for the nasal flu vaccine. If you answer yes to any of these questions, a member of the team will contact you to discuss further.

If you need to contact the School Vaccination Team prior to your child's vaccination, please send an email to: [FluVaccinationEnquiries.DHSC@gov.im](mailto:FluVaccinationEnquiries.DHSC@gov.im).

Information about the vaccine programme can be found on [www.gov.im/childhoodflu](http://www.gov.im/childhoodflu), where you will also find a link to the online consent form.

Yours sincerely

Karen Beirne  
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Integrated Women Children and Families