



Scan the QR code to go straight to the Flu vaccination consent form.

## Parent / Guardian Invitation to Consent for: 2023-2024 School Based Influenza (Flu) Nasal Spray Vaccination Programme

The Influenza nasal spray vaccination is offered annually as part of the national programme for vaccination of children and young people.  
This academic year the vaccine will be offered to children in all year groups from Reception through to Year 11.

### WHY SHOULD I VACCINATE MY CHILD?

Flu is caused by the influenza virus, which children can catch and spread easily.

It can be a very unpleasant illness, which can lead to hospital treatment for serious problems, for example painful ear infections, bronchitis and pneumonia.

Further information is also available on the NHS Choices website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

Vaccination is one of the most successful Public Health Interventions.

Having the vaccination can reduce the circulation of Influenza protect the wider community, particularly those for whom Influenza poses a serious health risk e.g., babies and older people.

The Influenza season in the UK is from Autumn through to Spring.

### IS THE FLU VACCINATION SAFE?

The vaccination is given as a simple, quick, and painless spray into each nostril, it is safe and effective in helping to protect children against flu.

The vaccine has undergone rigorous safety testing before being licenced for use in the UK.

Contained within this letter are some frequently asked questions and useful information about the vaccine, and the virus it protects against.

### How do I give consent for this vaccination?

Complete the steps below, before the closing date and time, to consent for your child to have the Influenza nasal spray vaccination.

**Your online consent form closes at 11am, 4 working days before your session date, which can be found in the accompanying email from your child's school.**

1. Read the vaccination resources provided on the next page, within the frequently asked questions.
2. Click on the following link: [www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu](http://www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu) or scan the QR code at the top of this page.
3. Enter and confirm your preferred email address - *You will receive a confirmation email following submission of the consent form.*
4. Enter your school code **SX135813** and click 'Find School' - *School codes are unique to each school and site. Use the code found on this letter, to avoid delays with vaccination.*
5. Check the school's name matches the school your child attends: **Billingshurst Primary School**
6. Parent / Legal Guardian (with Parental Responsibility) to complete and submit the consent form, indicating your choice of consent - *Please ensure you provide the child's registered address and GP.*

We hope that the information provided helps you to make a positive decision about protecting your child against this potentially serious disease, for which a vaccination is readily available.

If you are unable to complete the online form, do not want your child to have this vaccination, or wish to change your consent, please read the frequently asked questions for how to proceed. Speak to a member of the Immunisation Service by calling your local team, on **01273 696011**.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What vaccine is being offered and why?

The Fluenz Tetra nasal spray is the vaccine currently used, it offers protection against four strains of the Influenza virus which are anticipated to be circulating in the UK this winter. These strains may be different from previous years. Therefore, the World Health Organisation recommends annual vaccination. **To read the vaccine Patient Information Leaflet visit:**

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/3296/pil>

### Does the nasal vaccine contain gelatine derived from pigs (porcine gelatine)?

The vaccine does contain a highly processed form of porcine gelatine, to keep it stable and effective. However, the World Health Organisation and Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences, advised gelatine derived from impure animals has been sufficiently transformed to make it permissible, for use in medicines, including vaccinations.

### Are there any side effects of the vaccine?

Children may develop a runny or blocked nose, headache, tiredness, and reduced appetite, lasting a few days. The vaccine is absorbed quickly so, even if your child sneezes immediately after having had it, there's no need to worry that it hasn't worked. Any other side effects are unusual. If you're worried about any reaction, you can call the NHS 111 service.

### Your child should not have the nasal spray vaccine if they...

- Are currently wheezy or have been wheezy in the past three days (vaccination should be delayed until at least three days after the wheezing has stopped).
- Are severely asthmatic who have previously required intensive care or are currently (or within the last 14 days) being treated with oral steroids.
- Have a condition that severely weakens their immune system, for example following a bone marrow transplant.
- Have someone in their household severely immunocompromised who needs isolation.
- Have had severe anaphylaxis to egg allergy requiring intensive care treatment.
- Have had severe anaphylaxis to any other components of the vaccine – See Patient Information Leaflet.
- Are receiving Salicylate therapies (other than topical treatment for localized conditions).

If any of the above applies to your child, please contact your local Immunisation Team to discuss vaccination alternatives.

Children who have been vaccinated with the nasal spray should avoid household contact with people who have a severely weakened immune system, for 2 weeks following vaccination (e.g., those who are receiving chemotherapy).

### Shedding. What do I need to know?

The virus in the vaccine is live, but it has been weakened so that it cannot cause the illness in healthy people. The amount of virus shed after vaccination is normally below the levels needed to pass on the infection to others and it does not survive for long outside of the body. Unvaccinated children are not at risk of catching flu from the vaccine, either through being in the same room where flu vaccine has been given, or by being in individual contact with recently vaccinated children. This is in contrast to the natural flu infection, which spreads easily during the flu season.

### What if my child only has the vaccine in one nostril?

A spray in each nostril is to maximize contact with the cells in the nose. A single spray will induce a sufficient immune response to protect your child.

### Links to vaccination resources:

[Why vaccination is safe and important - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

### Information on the flu vaccination programme for:

#### Parents of Primary school Children

[Flu: 5 reasons to get your child vaccinated - Primary School \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Protecting your child against flu: Information for parents and carers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

#### Parents of Secondary School Children:

[Flu: 5 reasons to get your child vaccinated - secondary schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Protect yourself against flu: Information for those in secondary school \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

### What do I do if I cannot complete the online consent form?

Contact your local team in the Immunisation Service on the number provided, and complete a verbal consent with them, **before the closing date and time.**

### What do I do if I missed the cut off date and the form is closed?

Your child's school are requested to send reminders out to parents prior to the cut-off date. One working day after the school session visit, you will be able to complete consent and book into a catch-up clinic online. Instructions on how to book an appointment will be emailed to you upon submission of a positive consent form. If you are unable to use the online booking system, please contact your local team on the number provided.

### What do I do if I do not want my child to have this vaccination?

To indicate that you do not give consent for this vaccination, please complete the online consent form following the steps in the parent letter and answer 'NO' to the consent question.

### What do I do if I have changed my mind after completing an online consent form?

You must phone the Immunisation Service to change your consent in addition to informing your child's school, in writing, prior to the vaccination session date.

### What does giving consent for SCFT staff to view my child's Digital Health Record mean?

It enables any SCFT Children's Services staff, who provide care for your child, to see information which has been shared out from the GP and other health organisations records, if they use compatible systems. We cannot view other organisations records without consent, except in exceptional circumstances. Access to your child's health record helps our services to make safe clinical decisions on the most appropriate treatment and care. For further information visit: <https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/contact-us/patient-records.htm>

### How will I know when my child has been vaccinated?

You will receive an email, usually within 24 hours, sent to the address you provide when completing the online form, advising you of the vaccination outcome. If your child was not vaccinated, following submission of a positive consent form, your email will advise of the reason for this and contain details of how to book into a clinic.