

Vaccination is one of the most successful Public Health interventions giving protection against potentially fatal diseases for the whole of our population.



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust



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

Immunisation Service
Children & Families Clinic
Brighton General Hospital
Elm Grove
Brighton BN2 3EW
SC-TR.imms-team@nhs.net

Dear Parent or Guardian

School Based Influenza Nasal Spray Vaccination Programme 2022-2023

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 9.

The nasal spray flu vaccine is safe and effective in helping to protect children against flu.

Flu is caused by the influenza virus, which children can catch and spread easily. It can be a very unpleasant illness for children, which can lead to serious problems, such as bronchitis and pneumonia. Vaccinating them also protects others who are vulnerable to flu, such as babies and older people.

The vaccination is given as a simple, quick and painless spray into each nostril.

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

Further information is also available on the NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk.

Please take this opportunity to check that your child's routine vaccinations are up to date. You can check this with your GP Practice. If you have any questions, you can also contact the Immunisation Service or your School Nurse.

How do I give consent for this vaccination, if my child is in year 7 – year 9?

If you have already submitted a consent before 18th November 2022 you will need to submit another online form in order to give your consent, for your child to have the Influenza nasal spray vaccination. Please follow the steps below to complete a consent form:

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. Click on the following link or scan the QR code above: www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu
2. Enter and confirm your preferred email address – *you will receive a confirmation email following submission of the consent form.*
3. Enter your school code 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: SX137263*
4. Check the school name matches the school your child attends: **Hazelwick School**
5. Complete and submit the consent form, indicating your choice of consent - *Please ensure you provide the child's registered address and GP.*

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.

We hope that the information provided helps you to make a positive decision about protecting your child and the wider population against this virus, for which vaccinations are readily available.

Yours sincerely

Immunisation Clinical Service Manager

Speak to a member of the Immunisation Service by calling your local team on 01273 696011

Brighton
Ext. 3789

Chichester
Ext. 8100

Crawley
Ext. 2043

Heathfield
Ext. 2080

Uckfield
Ext. 4931

Worthing
Ext. 8533

Excellent care at the heart of the community

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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? The online form will re-open, 1 working day after the school session date. You will then be able to complete a consent form and book into a catch up clinic online, by following the instructions in the automated email you will receive 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? Please complete the online consent form following the steps in the parent letter and indicating that you do not give consent for this vaccination.

What do I do if I have changed my mind after completing an online consent form? You must contact the Immunisation Service to change your consent and inform your child's school, by putting this in writing, prior to the vaccination session date.

How will I know when my child has been vaccinated? You will receive an email, sent to the address provided 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 catch up clinic.

What vaccine is being offered and why? The Fluenz Tetra nasal spray is the vaccine currently used for the children's routine Influenza vaccination programme. It offers protection against four strains of the Influenza virus which are anticipated to be circulating in the UK this winter. The virus in the vaccine is live, but it has been weakened so that it cannot cause the illness in healthy people. It can reduce the circulation of Influenza and can protect the wider community, particularly those for whom Influenza poses a serious health risk.

To read the vaccine Patient Information Leaflet visit: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/3296/pil>

What is Influenza? Influenza is an unpleasant illness causing fever, stuffy nose, dry cough, sore throat, aching muscles and joints, and extreme tiredness. This can last several days and may need hospital treatment. Serious complications include a painful ear infection, bronchitis, and pneumonia. The Influenza season in the UK is from autumn through to spring.

Is the vaccine safe? - The vaccine has undergone rigorous safety testing before being licensed for use in the UK. It is a well-established vaccine with a good safety profile, and like all other vaccines unwanted reactions are constantly monitored.

Shedding. What do I need to know? 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 natural flu infection, which spreads easily during the flu season.

There is a very small percentage of children who are extremely immunocompromised (for example following a bone marrow transplant). These children are normally advised not to attend school due to the much higher risk of being in contact with other infections, including seasonal Influenza.

Children who have been vaccinated with the nasal spray should avoid household contact with people with very severely weakened immune systems for around two weeks following vaccination (for example those who are receiving chemotherapy).

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.

Children should not have the nasal 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, i.e., being treated with oral steroids or high dose inhaled steroids.
- Have a condition that severely weakens their immune system or have someone in their household 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 – check the Patient Information Leaflet.

My child had the Influenza vaccination last year. Do they need another one this year? Yes. The Influenza vaccine for each season has the current four strains of Influenza, these may be different from last year. The World Health Organisation recommends annual vaccination.

Does the nasal vaccine contain gelatine derived from pigs (porcine gelatine)? Yes. The vaccine does contain a highly processed form of porcine gelatine, to keep it stable and effective. There is no porcine free alternative available for children in the non 'at risk categories'. The World Health Organisation and the Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences advised gelatine derived from impure animals for use in medicines has been sufficiently transformed so as to make its consumption permissible.

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.

What does consenting to SCFT staff to be able 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 see: <https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/contact-us/patient-records.htm>

Protecting your child against flu

Flu immunisation in England

Information for parents and carers



Flu  **mmunisation**

Helping to protect children, every winter

5 reasons

to get your child vaccinated



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare



Flu vaccine is offered free to:

Children aged
2 or 3 years old
(on 31 August
before flu
vaccinations start
in the autumn)



Some
school-aged
children

Children with a
health condition
that puts them at
greater risk from flu



Further information on which children are eligible each year can be found at: www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Why should my child have the flu vaccine?

Flu can be a very unpleasant illness in children causing fever, stuffy nose, dry cough, sore throat, aching muscles and joints, and extreme tiredness. This can last several days or more.

Some children can get a very high fever, sometimes without the usual flu symptoms, and may need to go to hospital for treatment.

Serious complications of flu include a painful ear infection, acute bronchitis, and pneumonia.

What are the benefits of the vaccine?

Having the vaccine will help protect your child from what can be a very nasty illness in children. Children under the age of 5 years have the highest rate of hospital admissions due to flu.

It will reduce the chance of others in your family, who could be at greater risk from flu, such as grandparents or those with long term health conditions, getting flu from your child.

It is also important because many people at risk from flu are also vulnerable to the complications of COVID-19 and research shows that if you get both flu and COVID-19 at the same time you may be more seriously ill.

It can help you avoid having to take time off work or other activities because you are ill, or need to look after your sick child.

How effective is the vaccine?

Flu vaccine is the best protection we have against this unpredictable virus.

There are different strains of flu virus and the most likely strains that will cause flu are identified in advance of the flu season.

Vaccines are then made to match them as closely as possible – they will usually give some protection even if the match isn't perfect. Flu viruses can change every year so the vaccine is usually updated each year.

And protection from the vaccine may fade with time. For this reason, we recommend that your child is vaccinated against flu again this year, even if vaccinated last year.

Why are children being offered the vaccine?

As well as helping to protect children who are vaccinated, the infection is then less able to spread, and so it helps to protect other family members and friends.

Who will give my child their vaccination?

Children aged 2 and 3 years old (age on 31 August before flu vaccinations start in the autumn) will be given the vaccination at their general practice usually by the practice nurse.

School-aged children will be offered the vaccination in school, with further opportunities to get the vaccine at alternative venues for anyone who misses the session at school.

Children who are home educated will be offered the vaccine, provided they are in an eligible age group. Parents can obtain information about arrangements from their Local Authority Education Department.

How will the vaccine be given?

For most children, it is given as a nasal spray. If the nasal spray is not suitable for a child, an injection can be given instead, usually into the muscle in the upper arm.

Can the vaccine cause flu?

No, the vaccine cannot cause flu because the viruses in it have been weakened to prevent this from happening.

How does the nasal spray work?

The nasal spray contains viruses that have been weakened to prevent them from causing flu but will help your child to build up immunity. This means your child will be better able to fight off flu. The vaccine is absorbed really quickly in the nose so, even if your child sneezes immediately after having had the spray, there's no need to worry that it hasn't worked.

Are there any side-effects of the vaccine?

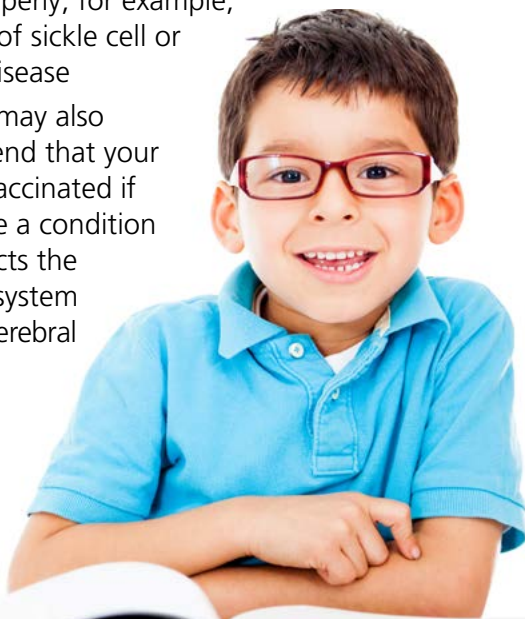
Children may develop a runny or blocked nose, headache, general tiredness and some loss of appetite. However, these are much less serious than developing flu or complications associated with flu. Serious side-effects are uncommon.

What about my child who has a health condition?

Children with certain health conditions, even if well managed, are at higher risk of severe complications if they get flu. It is especially important that these children are vaccinated.

These conditions include:

- serious breathing problems, for example, severe asthma needing regular inhaled or oral steroids
- serious heart conditions
- severe kidney or liver disease
- diabetes
- immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, for example, chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment for cancer or long-term steroid use
- problems with the spleen, either because the spleen has been removed (asplenia) or doesn't work properly, for example, because of sickle cell or coeliac disease
- your GP may also recommend that your child is vaccinated if they have a condition that affects the nervous system such as cerebral palsy



These children should have a flu vaccination every year from the age of 6 months onwards. Most will have the nasal spray vaccine but it should not be given to children under the age of 2 years.

Children under 2, and those for whom the nasal spray is not suitable for medical reasons, will be offered an injectable flu vaccine.

If your child has any health condition listed on page 8 but is not in one of the age groups being offered the vaccine in school, it is important that you contact your GP to arrange an appointment.

If you are not sure whether your child needs a flu vaccination or you need more advice, speak to your practice nurse, GP or health visitor.

When will the vaccine be given?

For 2 and 3 year olds, you should receive an invitation for your child to have it at their GP surgery in the autumn or early winter. Alternatively, you can contact them directly to make an appointment.

For primary school-aged children a vaccination session will be held at school generally during the autumn term. The school aged immunisation team will contact you via the school.

If your child is in an eligible group offered vaccine at school and has a health condition that puts them at increased risk from flu (see page 8), you can ask your child's GP surgery to provide the vaccine if you don't want to wait until the school vaccination session or if this is what you prefer.

Are there any children who shouldn't have the nasal vaccine?

As children with pre-existing medical conditions may be more vulnerable to complications of flu it is especially important that they are vaccinated. Children may not be able to have the nasal vaccine if they:

- are currently wheezy or have been wheezy in the past 72 hours, they should be offered an injected flu vaccine to avoid a delay in protection
- have needed intensive care due to
 - asthma or
 - egg allergic anaphylaxis

(Children in these 2 groups are recommended to seek the advice of their specialist and may need to have the nasal vaccine in hospital)

- have a condition, or are on treatment, that severely weakens their immune system or have someone in their household who needs isolation because they are severely immunosuppressed
- are allergic to any other components of the vaccine*

If your child is at high risk from flu due to one or more medical conditions or treatments and can't have the nasal flu vaccine they should have the injected flu vaccine.

*See the website at www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/3296/pil for a list of the ingredients of the vaccine

If you are unsure whether your child should get the injected vaccine or the nasal vaccine please check with the school aged immunisation team or the nurse or GP at your surgery.

Children who have been vaccinated with the nasal spray should avoid household contact with people with very severely weakened immune systems (for example those who have just had a bone marrow transplant) for around 2 weeks following vaccination.

Can the flu vaccine be given to my child at the same time as other vaccines?

Yes. The flu vaccine can be given at the same time as all the other routine childhood vaccines. The vaccination may be delayed if your child has a fever.

Also, if a child has a heavily blocked or runny nose, it might stop the vaccine getting into their system. In this case, their flu vaccination can be postponed until their nasal symptoms have cleared up.



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

Yes. The nasal vaccine contains a highly processed form of gelatine (porcine gelatine), which is used in a range of many essential medicines. The gelatine helps to keep the vaccine viruses stable so that the vaccine provides the best protection against flu.

The nasal vaccine is offered to children as it is more effective in the programme than the injected vaccine. This is because it is easier to administer and considered better at reducing the spread of flu to others, who may be more vulnerable to the complications of flu.

However, if your child is at high risk from flu due to one or more medical conditions or treatments and can't have the nasal flu vaccine they should have the flu vaccine by injection. For those who may not accept the use of porcine gelatine in medical products, an alternative injectable vaccine is available. You should discuss your options with your nurse, doctor, or school aged immunisation team.

Where can I get more information?

Visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu for more information. Talk to your GP, practice nurse, your child's school nurse or your health visitor if you have any further questions.

HOW TO CONSENT FOR YOUR CHILD TO HAVE A VACCINATION

To consent for Flu Vaccination, use this link:

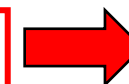
www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu



THE FIRST SCREEN WILL LOOK LIKE THIS.

It will tell you at the top of the screen which consent form you have opened.

Make sure this vaccination name matches the one at the top of your parent consent letter.



Diphtheria, Tetanus & Polio (Td/IPV), Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination Consent Form

Sussex Community **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Registration

Please enter your email address and the code provided by your school. Then press 'Find School'. It is important that you enter the correct email address as future correspondence will be emailed to you about your child's vaccination.

After you have finished, if you change your mind or need to tell us about changes to your child's medical history, do not complete another consent form. Please visit www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Contact to contact the immunisation team and tell us about any changes.

Email address

Confirm email address

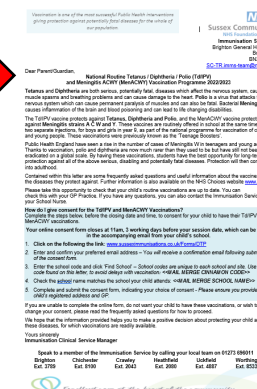
School code

Find School

School name

Next

You can read our fair processing policy here: www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/contact-us/patient-records.htm



YOU WILL NEED THE PARENT CONSENT LETTER YOUR CHILDS SCHOOL SENT YOU FOR THIS SCREEN.

Registration

Please enter your email address and the code provided by your school. Then press 'Find School'. It is important that you enter the correct email address

After you have finished, if you change your mind or need to tell us about changes to your child's medical history, do not complete another consent form

Email address

Confirm email address

School code

Find School

School name

Next

Enter your email address into both these boxes.

Enter your school code – this is on your parent consent letter in the coloured box.

Check the school name in the grey box matches the school name on your parent consent letter – this is in the coloured box.

Is the school name correct?

If **yes**, click next.

If **no**, recheck the code on the parent letter (make sure any 0's are entered as a number not a letter).

For assistance call one of the numbers on the bottom of the parent letter.

Vaccination is one of the most successful public health interventions giving protection against potentially fatal diseases for the whole of our population.

NHS
Sussex Community
Immunisation Service
Brighton General Hospital
Brighton
BN2 3EW
SC-TR immun@nhs.net

Dear Parent/Guardian,

National Routine Tetanus / Diphtheria / Polio (Td/IPV) and Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) Vaccination Programme 2022/2023

Tetanus and Diphtheria are both serious, potentially fatal, diseases which affect the nervous system, cause muscle spasms and breathing problems and can cause damage to the heart. Polio is a virus that attacks the nervous system which can cause permanent paralysis of muscles and can also be fatal. Bacterial Meningitis causes inflammation of the brain and blood poisoning and can lead to life-changing disabilities.

The Td/IPV vaccine protects against Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio, and the MenACWY vaccine protects against Meningitis strains A, C, W and Y. These vaccines are routinely offered in school at the same time, as two separate injections, for boys and girls in year 5, as part of the national programme for vaccination of children and young people. These vaccinations were previously known as the 'Teenage Boosters'.

Public Health England have seen a rise in the number of cases of Meningitis W in teenagers and young adults. Thanks to vaccination, polio and diphtheria are now much rarer than they used to be but have still not been eradicated on a global scale. By having these vaccinations, students have the best opportunity for long-term protection against all of the above serious, disabling and potentially fatal diseases. Protection will then continue into adulthood.

Contained within this letter are some frequently asked questions and useful information about the vaccines, and the diseases they protect against. Further information is also available on the NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk

Please take this opportunity to check that your child's routine vaccinations are up to date. You can check this with your GP Practice. If you have any questions, you can also contact the Immunisation Service or your School Nurse.

How do I give consent for the Td/IPV and MenACWY Vaccinations?

Complete the steps below, before the closing date and time, to consent for your child to have their Td/IPV and MenACWY vaccinations.

Your online consent form closes at 11am, 3 working days before your session date, which can be found in the consent form.

1. Click on the following link: www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/FormOTP
2. Enter and confirm your preferred email address – You will receive a confirmation email following submission of the consent form.
3. Enter the school code 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: «MAIL MERGE SCHOOL CODE»
4. Check the agreed name matches the school your child attends: «MAIL MERGE SCHOOL NAME»
5. Complete and submit the consent form, indicating your choice of consent – Please ensure you provide the child's registered address and GP.

If you are unable to complete the online form, do not wait your child to have these vaccinations, or wish to change your consent, please read the frequently asked questions for how to proceed.

We hope that the information provided helps you to make a positive decision about protecting your child against these diseases, for which vaccinations are readily available.

Yours sincerely
Immunisation Clinical Service Manager

Speak to a member of the Immunisation Service by calling your local team on 01273 696011

Brighton	Chichester	Crawley	Hove	Udfield	Worthing
Ext. 3789	Ext. 8100	Ext. 2043	Ext. 2080	Ext. 4887	Ext. 8533

Excellent care at the heart of the community



THE NEXT SCREEN LOOKS LIKE THIS.

IT HAS BOXES TO WRITE YOUR CHILDS NAME, DATE OF BIRTH AND GP SURGERY.

You need to write your childs first name and last name in these boxes.

Do you call your child something different at home? i.e is their name Christopher, but you call them Chris? **If yes**, write the name in this box. Leave it blank if not.

Don't worry if you don't know your childs NHS number, you can leave this box blank.

Click on the drop-down arrows, circled here in red, to help you complete the other boxes.

Tell us your childs address by writing the postcode in this box. Click the 'find your address' button

Select your childs address from the drop-down list

Click 'Next' to go to the next screen once you have completed the boxes.

Next



THE NEXT SCREEN LOOKS LIKE THIS (for flu, this will be after the screen on the next page)
IT ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S MEDICAL HISTORY.

This information is important. If you are unsure, please check with your GP or red book.

Click in the circle next to your answer for each question.

If you answer 'Yes' to any of the questions, this box will pop up...

You need to give more information in this box. i.e. Write the name and details of your child's medical condition.

Medical History

Does the child named on this form have any severe allergies?

☐ No
☐ Yes

Does the child named on this form have any existing medical conditions?

☐ No
☒ Yes

If Yes, please give us more information:

Does the child named on this form take any regular medication? (excluding contraceptive medication)

☐ No
☐ Yes

Has the child named on this form received two doses of the MMR vaccine since the age of one?

☐ No
☐ Yes

Is there anything else you think we should know about your child?

☐ No
☐ Yes

Next

Click 'Next' to go to the next screen once you have completed the boxes.



THIS IS THE LAST SCREEN (for flu it is the second to last screen).
THE FIRST QUESTION ASKS YOU IF YOU CONSENT FOR VACCINATION.

Consent

I consent to the child named on this form to receive the full HPV vaccination course:

☐ Yes
☐ No

If No, please give us more information:

Please choose

Please choose

My child has had these vaccinations
I do not feel that the vaccine(s) is necessary
Due to a previous allergic reaction to the vaccine(s)
Other

the vaccinations above. To the best of my knowledge the child named on this form has not already had the vaccinations above, for their age. I

Full Name (Parent/guardian with parental responsibility)

Write your name in this box.

Relationship to child

Please choose...

Use the drop-down list to tell us who you are. i.e. Mother.

I consent to the child named on this form Digital Health (e.g. GP) Record being available to be viewed by SCFT staff involved in their care.

☐ Yes
☐ No

Click in the circle next to your answer.

Submit

Click 'Submit' to send us your completed form.

**WHEN YOU CLICK THE GREEN SUBMIT BUTTOM THIS PAGE WILL APPEAR.
YOU WILL ALSO GET AN EMAIL TELLING YOU A CONSENT FORM HAS BEEN SUBMITTED
FOR YOUR CHILD.**



Thankyou. The consent form was submitted.

If you change your mind or need to tell us about changes to your child's medical history, do not complete another consent form.
Please visit www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Contact to contact the immunisation team and tell us about any changes.



If you need additional support, please call us:

01273 696011

EXT.

Brighton – 3789

Crawley – 2043

Heathfield – 2080

Worthing – 8533

Chichester – 8100

For more information about vaccinations please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations

