



UK Health
Security
Agency

Annual flu programme resources

2025 to 2026

UKHSA 31 July 2025

| Resources to support the flu programme

Healthcare professional (HCP) facing

Tripartite annual flu letter 2025 to 2026

Guidance

National flu immunisation programme 2025 to 2026 letter

Updated 19 February 2025

Contents

Eligibility

Timing

Recommended vaccines

Co-administration

Data collection

Further information

Conclusion

Annexe A: Key resources to
support the programme

13 February 2025

Dear colleagues,

We would like to thank everyone for their hard work in supporting the national programme and the significant contribution this makes to helping protect individuals from flu and relieving pressure on the NHS and social care.

This letter sets out guidance for the 2025 to 2026 season. It includes the next steps for regions and providers to take, including which flu vaccines to order. The letter confirms that there are no changes to the eligible cohorts.

Flu letter published 13 February 2025

www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan-2025-to-2026

Amendment to tripartite annual flu letter 2025 to 2026

Guidance

Amendment to national flu immunisation programme 2025 to 2026 letter

Updated 28 July 2025

28 July 2025

The [national flu immunisation programme 2025 to 2026 letter](#) (“annual flu letter”), originally published on 13 February 2025 is hereby amended to reflect the following changes:

Community pharmacy delivery of 2-3-year-old flu vaccinations

To help support improvements in access and uptake, community pharmacies will be able to offer 2-3-year-olds flu vaccinations during the 2025 to 2026 flu season. Community pharmacy service delivery will begin from 1 October 2025, supplementing the offer in General Practice who will start vaccinating from the 1 September 2025, or as soon as vaccine is available.

Flu letter amendment published 28 July 2025

www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan-2025-to-2026

| Green Book - Influenza: chapter 19

19

Influenza

The disease

Influenza is an acute viral infection of the respiratory tract. There are 3 types of influenza virus: A, B and C. Influenza A and influenza B are responsible for most clinical illness. Influenza is highly infectious with a usual incubation period of 1 to 3 days.

The disease is characterised by the sudden onset of fever, chills, headache, myalgia and extreme fatigue. Other common symptoms include a dry cough, sore throat and stuffy nose. For otherwise healthy individuals, influenza is an unpleasant but usually self-limiting disease with recovery usually within 2 to 7 days. The illness may be complicated by (and may present as) bronchitis, secondary bacterial pneumonia or, in children, otitis media. Influenza can be complicated more unusually by meningitis, encephalitis or meningoencephalitis. The risk of serious illness from influenza is higher amongst children under 6 months of age (Poehling *et al.*, 2006; Ampofo *et al.*, 2006; Coffin *et al.*, 2007; Zhou *et al.*, 2012), older people (Thompson *et al.*, 2003 and 2004; Zhou *et al.*, 2012), those with underlying health conditions such as respiratory or cardiac disease, chronic neurological conditions, or immunosuppression and also in pregnant women (Neuzil *et al.*, 1998; O'Brien *et al.*, 2004; Nicoll *et al.*, 2008 and Pebody *et al.*, 2010). Influenza during pregnancy may also be associated with perinatal mortality, prematurity, smaller neonatal size and lower birth weight (Pierce *et al.*, 2011; Mendez-Figueroa *et al.*, 2011) and admission to intensive care (Vousden *et al.*, 2021). Although primary influenza pneumonia is a rare complication that may occur at any age and carries a high case fatality rate (Barker and Mullooly, 1982), it was seen more frequently during the 2009 Influenza pandemic and the following influenza season. Serological studies in healthcare professionals have shown that approximately 30 to 50% of influenza infections can be asymptomatic (Wilde *et al.*, 1999) but the proportion of influenza infections that are asymptomatic may vary depending on the characteristics of the influenza strain.

Transmission is by droplets, aerosol, or through direct contact with respiratory secretions of someone with the infection (Killingley and Nguyen-Van-Tam 2013). Influenza spreads rapidly, especially in closed communities such as nursing and residential homes and schools. Most cases in the UK tend to occur during an 8- to 10-week period during the winter. The timing, extent and severity of this 'seasonal' influenza can all vary.

Influenza A viruses cause outbreaks most years and it is these viruses that are the usual cause of epidemics. Large epidemics occur intermittently. Influenza B tends to cause less severe disease and smaller outbreaks overall. The burden of influenza B disease is mostly in children when the severity of illness can be similar to that associated with influenza A.

Changes in the principal surface antigens of influenza A – haemagglutinin and neuraminidase – make these viruses antigenically labile. Minor changes, described as antigenic drift, occur progressively from season to season. Antigenic shift occurs

www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19

Published 28 May

Updates include:

- The vaccine name is now agnostic of trivalent or quadrivalent formulation e.g.: IIVx instead of QIVx or TIVx.
- Examples of previous seasons has been updated from primary care to secondary care data (the RCGP data figure has been changed to the SARI watch data).
- The timing of the programme implementation has been updated
- There was a reformat on age specific vaccine and vaccine type
- Occupational health vaccination update
- Co- administration with other vaccines including RSV update
- Guidance on vaccination for those with unrepaired craniofacial malformations

JCVI advice on influenza vaccines for 2025 to 2026

Independent report

JCVI statement on influenza vaccines for 2025 to 2026

Updated 3 December 2024

Contents

[Move to trivalent formulations](#)

[Adults 65 years of age and over](#)

[At-risk adults 18 to 64 years of age \(including pregnant women\)](#)

[Children aged 2 to less than 18 years of age](#)

[Children less than 2 years of age in at-risk groups](#)

[Generating real-world evidence in the UK](#)

[Operational considerations](#)

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) reviewed the latest UK influenza surveillance vaccine effectiveness data for the 2023 to 2024 season at the 5 June 2024 JCVI meeting. Vaccine effectiveness against hospitalisation is important for determining vaccines for use in the programme.

The 2023 to 2024 influenza season was the second season since:

- the COVID-19 pandemic with widespread transmission
- the introduction of the requirement that laboratories report negative influenza results


This improvement in UK hospital surveillance has supported informative comparison between vaccine types. As seen in the 2022 to 2023 season, 2023 to 2024 preliminary

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccines-2025-to-2026-jcvi-advice/jcvi-statement-on-influenza-vaccines-for-2025-to-2026


All influenza vaccines marketed in the UK for the 2025 to 2026 season


<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-vaccines-marketed-in-the-uk>

- Note for the 2025 to 2026 season this resource was first published on 13 February 2025.
- On 1 April 2025 all manufactures confirmed that all inactivated vaccines would be supplied in trivalent formulation for the 2025 to 2026 season.
- This resource was therefore republished on 6 June 2025, with the 'vaccine type' column update and footnote added to reflect wording is agnostic to the number of virus strains included in the vaccine.


 UK Health Security Agency					
All influenza vaccines marketed in the UK for the 2025 to 2026 season					
Updated 6 June 2025					
Supplier	Product	Vaccine type ¹	Age indications	Ovalbumin content micrograms/dose	Contact details
AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Fluenz®	LAIV (live attenuated influenza vaccine) supplied as nasal spray suspension, egg-cultured	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	Less than 0.024 micrograms per 0.2 ml dose	0845 139 0000
Sanofi	Vaxigrip	Inactivated influenza vaccine, split virion, egg cultured	From 6 months	Equal to or less than 0.05 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	0800 854 430
Viartis	Influvac® sub-unit TIV ▼	Inactivated influenza vaccine, surface antigen, egg cultured	From 6 months	Equal to or less than 0.1 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	0800 358 7468
CSL Seqirus UK	Cell-based Trivalent Influenza Vaccine Seqirus ▼	Inactivated influenza vaccine surface antigen, cell cultured	From 6 months	Egg-free	0345 0093 804
Sanofi	Supemtek TIVr ▼	Inactivated influenza vaccine, recombinant, cell cultured	From 18 years	None	0800 854 430
Sanofi	Efluelda TIV-HD ▼	Inactivated influenza vaccine, split virion, 60 micrograms HA/strain, egg cultured	From 60 years	Equal to or less than 1 microgram per 0.5ml dose	0800 854 430
CSL Seqirus UK	Adjuvanted Trivalent Influenza Vaccine Seqirus ▼	Inactivated influenza vaccine surface antigen, adjuvanted with MF59C.1, egg cultured	From 50 years	Equal to or less than 1 microgram per 0.5ml dose	0345 0093 804


| Flu vaccination programme 2025 to 2026: e-learning programme


England




Home **Programmes** About News Support Demo Contact us

Search this website 


 Sections

Flu Immunisation

An interactive e-learning package to support the training of all healthcare professionals involved in delivering or advising on flu immunisation



This programme is in partnership with...



About the Flu Immunisation programme

The **Flu Immunisation** programme is **freely available** to access.

Please note your progress and completion of sessions will not be recorded and you will not be able to generate a record of completion. If you require evidence of learning, please **register** and then log in to access this programme on the elfh Hub.

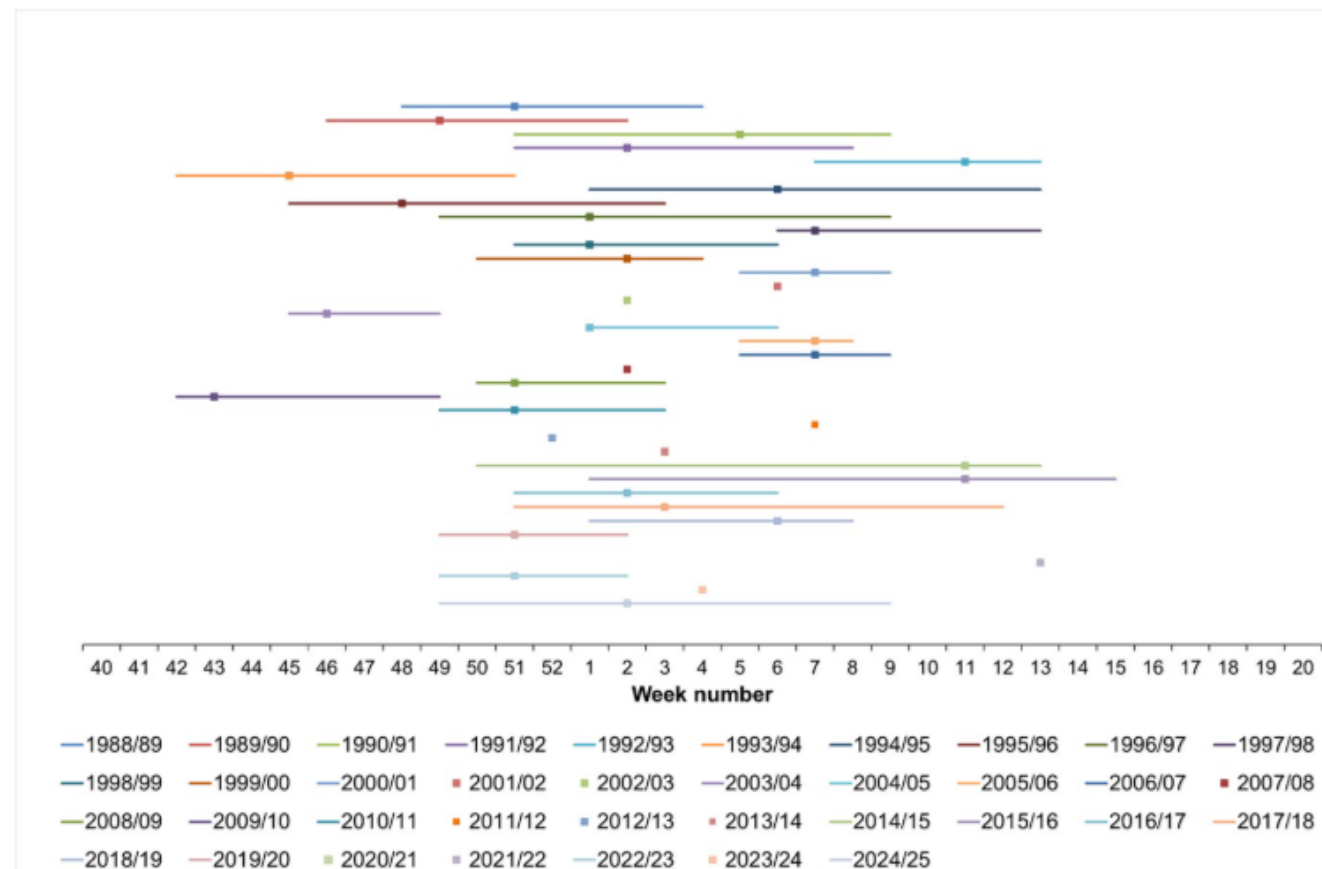
www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/flu-immunisation/ Published 25 July 2025

Flu surveillance and vaccine uptake

- Flu surveillance reports: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-2025-to-2026-season
 - (currently published fortnightly during the summer months. Weekly reporting will commence from week 41)
- Flu vaccine uptake data: www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake#seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake:-figures
 - Weekly national level flu vaccine uptake reporting in GP patients will commence in week 41 (October 2025) with monthly data published from November 2025

Timing of flu seasons

Figure 1: GP influenza-like illness consultation activity in England, 1988 to 1989 season to 2024 to 2025 season



www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-virus-circulation-england-and-wales/timing-of-influenza-seasons

Updated 21 July 2025 to include data from 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons

Ordering copies of flu resources

Paper copies of most resources are available to order at:
www.healthpublications.gov.uk

Health Publications Website note: Around the end of August 2025, Health Publications will be moving to a new and improved site named Find Public Health Resources. There may be disruptions on or around the day we move. If you have any items in your basket, make sure you place your order before then.


You'll receive an email with more information to help you prepare for this change if you have an account with us. If you created an account after 15 July 2025, you will have to create one again once we're live. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause and look forward to welcoming you to the new site.


Resources which are available to order are marked with a product code stamp. Search for the product code on the Health Publications website to order copies. If the product is currently out of stock, you may put a back order in which will be fulfilled when stock becomes available:

Product code:
xxxxxxxxxx

Other resources are download only: **Download only**

Resources to support the children's flu programme - HCP

 UK Health Security Agency



2025 to 2026 flu season

Which flu vaccine should children have?

The following vaccines are suitable for children and this chart indicates which vaccine is recommended by age for this season

LAIV nasal spray
Live attenuated influenza vaccine, nasal spray suspension
Available to order from ImmForm

IIVc injection
Cell-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine
Available to order from ImmForm

IIVe injection
Egg-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine
Not supplied by ImmForm

What is the child or young person's age?

under 6 months of age
Infants under 6 months of age are too young to have the flu vaccine (this is why it is important that expectant mothers have a flu vaccination; pregnant women can have the flu vaccine at any stage of their pregnancy)

6 months to under 2 years
Are they in a clinical risk group⁽ⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱ⁾


No
They are not eligible for the flu vaccine

Yes
They should have the injected IIVc
Or IIVe⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ if IIVc not available
Children in this age group who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

From 2 years⁽ⁱ⁾ to less than 18 years of age
in eligible year group or in a clinical risk group^(iv)
Is the LAIV nasal spray contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable?⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

No
No contraindications to LAIV nasal spray
They should have the LAIV nasal spray vaccine
Children under 9 years of age in a clinical risk group^(iv) who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

Yes
LAIV contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable
They should have the injected IIVc
Or IIVe⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ if IIVc not available
Children under 9 years of age in a clinical risk group^(iv) who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart



⁽ⁱ⁾ Aged 2 years on 31 August 2025, unless in a clinical risk group.
⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ If the parent of an eligible child declines LAIV because of its porcine gelatine content, they can request an alternative injectable vaccine.
⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ IIVc is available to order from ImmForm for these children.
^(iv) IIVe is not supplied by ImmForm.
^(v) Or a child who is a household contact of an immunocompromised individual.

Note that IIVx is used on this resource to denote all inactivated influenza vaccines, regardless of how many virus strain antigens are included in the vaccine this season. All vaccines used for the 2025 to 2026 season are trivalent.

Resources

Green Book Influenza Chapter 19
www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19

Annual flu programme
www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme

© Crown copyright 2025. UK Health Security Agency gateway number 20241058.



Download only

www.gov.uk/government/publications/which-flu-vaccine-should-children-have

12

| Patient Group Directions (PGDs)

IIV PGD



UKHSA publications gateway number: GOV-18488

Inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) Patient Group Direction (PGD)

This PGD is for the administration of inactivated influenza vaccine to individuals in accordance with the national influenza immunisation programme.

This PGD is for the administration of inactivated influenza vaccine by registered health care practitioners identified in [section 3](#), subject to any limitations to authorisation detailed in [section 2](#).

Reference no: Inactivated influenza PGD
Version no: v14.0
Valid from: 1 September 2025
Expiry date: 1 April 2026

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has developed this PGD to facilitate the delivery of publicly funded immunisation in England in line with national recommendations.

Those using this PGD must ensure that it is organisationally authorised and signed in Section 2 by an appropriate authorising person, relating to the class of person by whom the product is to be supplied, in accordance with Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (HMR2012)¹. **The PGD is not legal or valid without signed authorisation in accordance with [HMR2012 Schedule 16 Part 2](#).**

Authorising organisations must not alter, amend or add to the clinical content of this document (sections 4, 5 and 6); such action will invalidate the clinical sign-off with which it is provided. In addition, authorising organisations must not alter [section 3](#) (Characteristics of staff). **Sections 2 and 7 can be amended within the designated editable fields provided, but only for the purposes for which these sections are provided, namely the responsibilities and governance arrangements of the NHS organisations using the PGD. The fields in sections 2 and 7 cannot be used to alter, amend or add to the clinical contents. Such action will invalidate the UKHSA clinical content authorisation which is provided in accordance with the regulations.**

Operation of this PGD is the responsibility of commissioners and service providers. The final authorised copy of this PGD should be kept by the authorising organisation completing Section 2 for 8 years after the PGD expires if the PGD relates to adults only and for 25 years after the PGD expires if the PGD relates to children only, or adults and children. Provider organisations adopting authorised versions of this PGD should also retain copies for the periods specified above.

Individual practitioners must be authorised by name, under the current version of this PGD before working according to it by signing section 7.



Practitioners and organisations must check that they are using the current version of the PGD. Amendments may become necessary prior to the published expiry date. Current versions of UKHSA PGD templates for authorisation can be found from [immunisation patient group direction \(PGD\) templates](#).

Any concerns regarding the content of this PGD should be addressed to: immunisation@ukhsa.gov.uk

Enquiries relating to the availability of organisationally authorised PGDs and subsequent versions of this PGD should be directed to: Insert local contact details such as SII inbox

¹ This includes any relevant amendments to legislation
Inactivated influenza PGD v14.0 Valid from: 1 September 2025 Expiry: 1 April 2026 Page 1 of 20

LAIV PGD



Publications gateway number: GOV-18720

Live attenuated influenza vaccine nasal spray suspension (LAIV) Patient Group Direction (PGD)

This PGD is for the supply and administration, or supply only, of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) nasal spray suspension to children and adolescents from 2 years to under 18 years of age and special educational needs (SEN) individuals aged 17 years and over and up to 25 years of age in a clinical risk group and in a SEN school in accordance with the national flu immunisation programme.

This PGD is for the supply and administration, or supply only, of LAIV by registered health care practitioners identified in [section 3](#), subject to any limitations to authorisation detailed in [section 2](#).

Reference no: LAIV PGD
Version no: v15.0
Valid from: 1 September 2025
Expiry date: 1 April 2026

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has developed this PGD to facilitate the delivery of publicly-funded immunisations in England in line with national recommendations.

Those using this PGD must ensure that it is organisationally authorised and signed in section 2 by an appropriate authorising person, relating to the class of person by whom the product is to be supplied, in accordance with Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (HMR2012)¹. **The PGD is not legal or valid without signed authorisation in accordance with [HMR2012 Schedule 16 Part 2](#).**

Authorising organisations must not alter, amend or add to the clinical content of this document (sections 4, 5 and 6); such action will invalidate the clinical sign-off with which it is provided. In addition, authorising organisations must not alter section 3 (Characteristics of staff).

Sections 2 and 7 can be edited within the designated editable fields provided, but only for the purposes for which these sections are provided, namely the responsibilities and governance arrangements of the NHS organisation using the PGD. The fields in section 2 and 7 cannot be used to alter, amend to or add to the clinical content. Such action will invalidate the UKHSA clinical content authorisation which is provided in accordance with the regulations

Operation of this PGD is the responsibility of commissioners and service providers. The final authorised copy of this PGD should be kept by the authorising organisation completing Section 2 for 8 years after the PGD expires if the PGD relates to adults only and for 25 years after the PGD expires if the PGD relates to children only, or adults and children. Provider organisations adopting authorised versions of this PGD should also retain copies for the periods specified above.

Individual practitioners must be authorised by name, under the current version of this PGD before working according to it.

Practitioners and organisations must check that they are using the current version of the PGD. Amendments may become necessary prior to the published expiry date. Current versions of UKHSA PGD templates for authorisation can be found from: [immunisation patient group direction \(PGD\) templates](#).

Any concerns regarding the content of this PGD should be addressed to:

¹ This includes any relevant amendments to legislation
LAIV PGD v15.0 Valid from: 1 September 2025 Expiry: 1 April 2026 Page 1 of 20

Please note that a combined PGD (LAIV and IIV) for use in community pharmacy for 2- and 3-years olds will be issued by 1 September 2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/intramuscular-inactivated-influenza-vaccine-patient-group-direction-pgd-template>
Published 28 July 2025

www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-vaccine-fluenz-tetra-patient-group-direction-pgd-template Published 1 July 2025

| National protocol



UKHSA Publications gateway number: GOV-18486

National protocol for inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV)

Reference no: Inactivated influenza vaccine protocol
Version no: v7.0
Valid from: 1 September 2025
Expiry date: 1 April 2026

This protocol is for the administration of inactivated influenza vaccine to individuals in accordance with the national influenza immunisation programme.

This protocol is for the administration of inactivated influenza vaccine by appropriately trained persons in accordance with [regulation 247A](#) of the [Human Medicines Regulations 2012](#) (HMR 2012), inserted by [The Human Medicines \(Coronavirus and Influenza\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#).

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has developed this protocol for authorisation by or on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to facilitate the delivery of the national influenza immunisation programme commissioned by NHS England.

This protocol may be followed wholly from assessment through to post-vaccination by an appropriately registered health care professional (see [Characteristics of staff](#)). Alternatively, multiple persons may undertake stages in the vaccination pathway in accordance with this protocol. Where multiple person models are used, the service provider or contractor must ensure that all elements of the protocol are complied with, in the provision of vaccination to each individual. The provider or contractor is responsible for ensuring that persons are trained and competent to safely deliver the activity they are employed to provide under this protocol. As a minimum, competence requirements stipulated in the protocol under [Characteristics of staff](#) must be adhered to.

The provider or contractor and registered health care professionals are responsible for ensuring that they have adequate and appropriate indemnity cover.

Persons must be authorised by name to work under this protocol. They must ensure they meet the staff characteristics for the activity they are undertaking, make a declaration of competence and be authorised in writing. This can be done by completing [section 4](#) of this protocol or maintaining an equivalent electronic record.

A clinical supervisor, who must be a registered doctor, nurse or pharmacist trained and competent in all aspects of the protocol, must be present and take overall responsibility for provision of vaccination under the protocol at all times and be identifiable to service users. Any time the protocol is used, the name of the clinical supervisor taking responsibility and all the people working under different stages of the protocol must be recorded for the session. The clinical supervisor has ultimate responsibility for safe care being provided under the terms of the protocol. Staff working under the protocol may be supported by additional registered health care professionals, but the clinical supervisor retains overall responsibility. Staff working to the protocol must understand who the clinical supervisor for their practice at any time is and can only proceed with their authority. The clinical supervisor may withdraw this authority for all members of staff or individual members of staff at any time and has authority to stop and start service provision under the protocol as necessary. Every member of staff has a responsibility to, and should, report immediately to the

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-for-inactivated-influenza-vaccine>

Published 28 July 2025

| Written Instruction for the administration of seasonal flu vaccination (for NHS bodies or local authorities and for independent and other providers)

[Insert Organisation Logo]

WRITTEN INSTRUCTION

Written instruction to administer inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) as part of an NHS Body (NHS Body defined below) or Local Authority occupational health scheme, which may include peer to peer immunisation (2025/26)

For use only by the following: registered nurses, registered midwives, registered nursing associates, registered operating department practitioners, registered paramedics, registered physiotherapists and registered pharmacists

[[Text highlighted in blue and in [single square brackets] must be locally completed and the final written instruction signed by a doctor and approved through local governance processes prior to implementation (remove text highlighted in yellow and in [[double square brackets]] from final approved document)]]

Organisation name:	[Text to be added by organisation] This can only be an NHS Body (see definition below table) or a Local Authority operating an occupational health scheme
Date of issue:	[Text to be added by organisation]
Date of review (not to exceed one year from date of issue):	[Text to be added by organisation]
Reference number:	[Text to be added by organisation]
Version number:	[Text to be added by organisation]
[Details of local ratifying committee/governance approval or similar as appropriate:]	[Text to be added by organisation or section removed as locally appropriate]

An NHS Body is defined in the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (HMR 2012) as one of the following:

- the Common Services Agency
- a health authority
- a special health authority
- integrated care board
- NHS England
- an NHS trust
- an NHS foundation trust

[Insert Organisation Logo]

WRITTEN INSTRUCTION

Written instruction for registered nurses to administer inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine (IIV) as part of an occupational health scheme, which may include peer to peer immunisation (2025/26)

For use within providers that are **NOT** an NHS Body (NHS Body defined below) or a Local Authority

[[Text highlighted in blue and in [single square brackets] must be locally completed and the final written instruction signed by a doctor and approved through local governance processes prior to implementation (remove text highlighted in yellow and in [[double square brackets]] from final approved document)]]

Organisation name:	[Text to be added by organisation]
Date of issue:	[Text to be added by organisation]
Date of review (not to exceed one year from date of issue):	[Text to be added by organisation]
Reference number:	[Text to be added by organisation]
Version number:	[Text to be added by organisation]
[Details of local ratifying committee/governance approval or similar as appropriate:]	[Text to be added by organisation or section removed as locally appropriate]

An NHS Body is defined in the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (HMR 2012) as one of the following:

- the Common Services Agency
- a health authority
- a special health authority
- integrated care board
- NHS England
- an NHS trust
- an NHS foundation trust

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/influenza-vaccine-written-instruction-templates-for-adoption/> published 2 June 2025

| Pre-school resources leaflet



Download only

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-for-early-years-settings-including-child-minders Published 23 July 2025

[Provider letterhead plus NHS logo]

Template letter for children aged 2 and 3 years old

[GP Surgery] T [000 000 0000]
[First address line]
[Second address line]
[Town/city]
[County Postcode]

[Date]

Dear [Name]

«Insert child's name »'s annual flu vaccination is now due

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Children under the age of 5 years have one of the highest rates of hospital admissions due to flu.

Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu.

Please phone [insert number] to book an appointment for [insert child's name]'s flu vaccination.

The vaccination is free of charge. Your child will be assessed to confirm the most suitable vaccine when you come to the practice. Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is a quick and painless spray up the nose.

We look forward to seeing «Insert child's first name» soon.

Yours sincerely,

[GP/Practice Nurse/Practice Manager name]
[Position/title]

For more information visit: www.nhs.uk/child-flu

As a reminder you can use this section to record the date and time of your child's vaccination appointment.

on: ____/____/____ at ____am/pm
Date Time

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-invitation-letter-template-for-children-aged-2-3-and-4-years Published 20 May 2025

| Resources to support the flu programme

Public Facing

Ordering copies of flu resources

Paper copies of most resources are available to order at:
www.healthpublications.gov.uk

Health Publications Website note: Around the end of August 2025, Health Publications will be moving to a new and improved site named Find Public Health Resources. There may be disruptions on or around the day we move. If you have any items in your basket, make sure you place your order before then.

You'll receive an email with more information to help you prepare for this change if you have an account with us. If you created an account after 15 July 2025, you will have to create one again once we're live. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause and look forward to welcoming you to the new site.

Resources which are available to order are marked with a product code stamp. Search for the product code on the Health Publications website to order copies. If the product is currently out of stock, you may put a back order in which will be fulfilled when stock becomes available:

Product code:
xxxxxxxxxx

Other resources are download only: **Download only**

| Primary school resources – briefing, letter & stickers

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools (Note that links to .gov.uk will remain unchanged when 'Health Publications' is replaced with 'Find Public Health Resources')



Product code:
FLUPY25

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sflubriefingfprimaryschools202526>

[Provider letterhead plus NHS logo]
TEMPLATE LETTER FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

[Date]

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's flu vaccination is now due

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.

Please complete the enclosed consent form (one for each child) and return to the school [by/ within] [INSERT DATE or TIME FRAME] to ensure your child receives their vaccination.

Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is a quick and painless spray up the nose. Please answer the questions on the consent form as a small number of children cannot have the nasal spray because of medical conditions or treatments. They can be offered protection through a vaccine injection instead.

The nasal spray vaccine is the preferred vaccine. It 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.

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 won't be protected.

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

If you have any queries, please contact the health care team on [INSERT NUMBER]

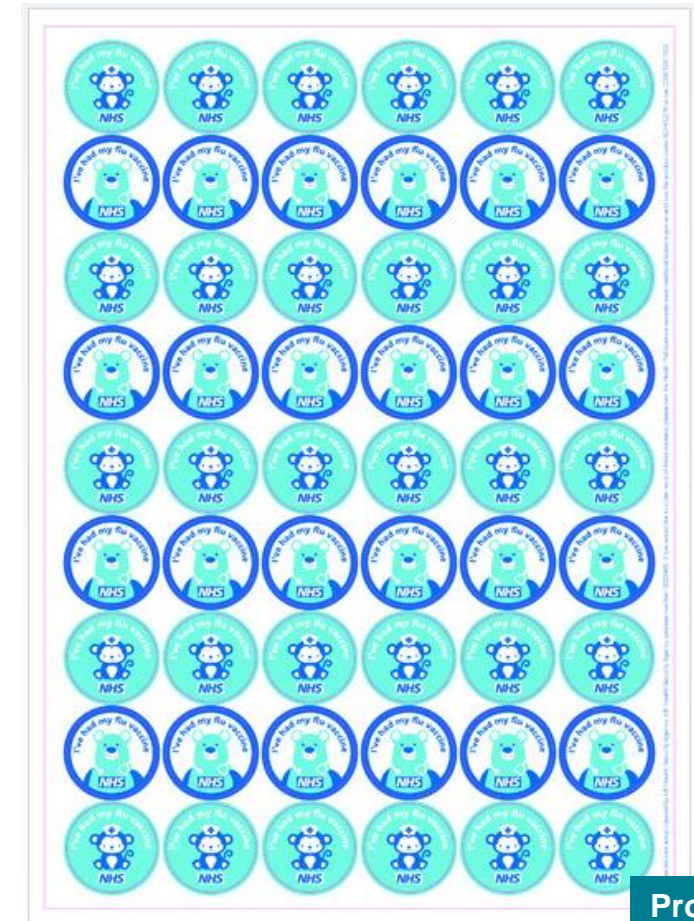
Yours sincerely,

[Signed by provider]

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 healthcare team on [phone number].

[Link to letter](#)

Stickers



Product code:
SCHFLSTK

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sflustickerforchildrenaged2to11years>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters> (scroll down the page for the link to stickers)

| Primary school resources - leaflet



Protecting your child against flu

Flu immunisation in England



Flu  mmunisation
Helping to protect children, every winter

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sprotectyourchildagainstfluinformationforparentsandcarersofchildreninprimaryschoolorpreschool>

Protect your child against flu – information for parents and carers of preschool and primary school aged children

Paper copies of this leaflet are available to order for free or download in the following languages:

[English](#), [Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#), [Chinese \(Traditional\)](#), [Dari](#), [Estonian](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#), [Greek](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Italian](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Nepali](#), [Panjabi](#), [Pashto](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#), [Romany](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Turkish](#), [Twi](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#), [Yiddish](#) and [Yoruba](#).

Product code:
2025FCEN

| Primary school resources - poster



5 reasons to vaccinate your child against flu poster for primary schools and pre-schools

Paper copies of this leaflet are available to order for free or download in the following languages:

[Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Brazilian Portuguese](#), [Chinese \(simplified\)](#), [Estonian](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#), [Greek](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Panjabi](#), [Polish](#), [Romanian](#), [Romany](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Turkish](#), [Twi](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#) and [Yiddish](#).

Product code:
FLU5RY24

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sflu5reasonstovaccinateyourchildposter011years-4104>

| Secondary school resources – letter, leaflet & poster

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools

[Provider letterhead plus NHS logo]

TEMPLATE LETTER FOR SCHOOL-AGED
CHILDREN

[Date]

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's flu vaccination is now due

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.

Please complete the enclosed consent form (one for each child) and return to the school [by/ within] **[INSERT DATE or TIME FRAME]** to ensure your child receives their vaccination.

Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is a quick and painless spray up the nose. Please answer the questions on the consent form as a small number of children cannot have the nasal spray because of medical conditions or treatments. They can be offered protection through a vaccine injection instead.

The nasal spray vaccine is the preferred vaccine. It 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.

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 won't be protected.

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

If you have any queries, please contact the healthcare team on **[INSERT NUMBER]**.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed by provider]

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 healthcare team on [phone number].

[Link to letter](#)



UK Health
Security
Agency



Protect yourself against flu

Flu immunisation in England

Information for those in secondary school



Flu **i**mmunisation
Helping to protect you against flu

Product
code:
25SECFLUEN

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Speterprotectyourselfagainstfluinformationforthoseinsecondaryschool>



flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

1. Protect yourself

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

2. Protect your family and friends

Having the vaccine 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 worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid lost opportunities

If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).



Flu **i**mmunisation
Helping to protect you against flu

© Crown copyright 2021. Product code FLU5RS24. UK Health Security Agency gateway number: 2020705. If you want to order more copies of this guide, please visit: healthpublications@nhs.uk or call 0300 123 1000.

Product code:
FLU5RS24

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sflu5reasonspostersecondaryschools>

| Secondary school resources - leaflet



Protect yourself against flu – information for secondary school aged young people

Paper copies of this leaflet are available to order for free or download in the following languages:

[English](#), [Albanian](#), [Bengali](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#), [Chinese \(Traditional\)](#), [Dari](#), [Estonian](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#), [Greek](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Italian](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Nepali](#), [Panjabi](#), [Pashto](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#), [Romany](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Turkish](#), [Twi](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#), [Yiddish](#), and [Yoruba](#).

Product code:
25SECFLUEN

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Speterprotectyourselfagainstfluinformationforthoseinsecondaryschool>

| Secondary school resources - poster



Flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine poster for secondary schools

Translations of this poster are available to order in the following languages:

[Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese\(simplified\)](#), [Chinese\(traditional\)](#), [Dari](#), [Estonian](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#), [Greek](#),

[Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Italian](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Nepali](#), [Panjab](#),

[Pashto](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#), [Romany](#), [Russian](#),

[Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Turkish](#), [Twi](#), [Ukrainian](#),

[Uyghur](#), [Yiddish](#) and [Yoruba](#).

Product
code:
FLU5RS24

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-Product
<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sflu5reasonspostersecondaryschools>

Briefing for secondary schools on adolescent vaccination programme




This guide explains the NHS adolescent vaccination programmes delivered to children in secondary schools and the important role that schools play in the delivery of them. It includes information on the flu vaccination programme.

Product code:
FLUSY25

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sbriefingforadolescentvaccinationinschools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adolescent-vaccination-programme-in-secondary-schools>

| All eligible groups – When should I have my flu vaccine?



When should I get my flu vaccine?

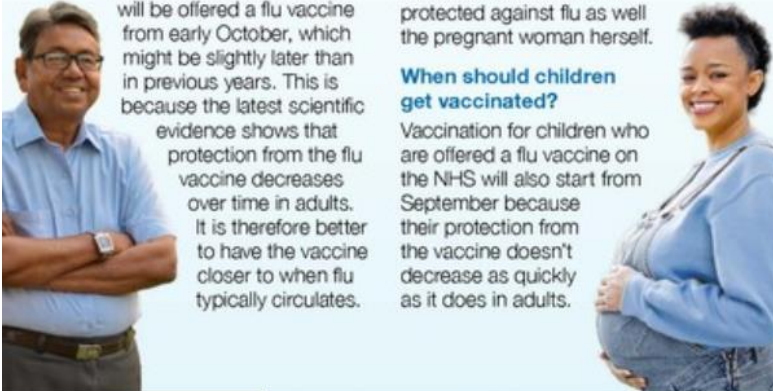
Information for adults eligible for a flu vaccine on the NHS

Who should have a flu vaccine?
Flu vaccination is recommended for those who are most at risk of serious complications if they get flu. For adults this includes everyone aged 65 years and over, pregnant women, and those with certain long-term health conditions. Flu can be a serious illness in these people and the vaccine offers the best protection.

Why do I have to wait until October for my flu vaccine?
This year most eligible adults will be offered a flu vaccine from early October, which might be slightly later than in previous years. This is because the latest scientific evidence shows that protection from the flu vaccine decreases over time in adults. It is therefore better to have the vaccine closer to when flu typically circulates.

When should pregnant women get vaccinated?
Pregnant women should have the vaccine from September. This is because the protection from the vaccine is passed through the placenta to the baby, giving the baby protection for the first few months of life when they are particularly at risk from flu. Therefore pregnant women shouldn't delay vaccination, especially those who are heavily pregnant, as babies born during the flu season need to be protected against flu as well the pregnant woman herself.

When should children get vaccinated?
Vaccination for children who are offered a flu vaccine on the NHS will also start from September because their protection from the vaccine doesn't decrease as quickly as it does in adults.



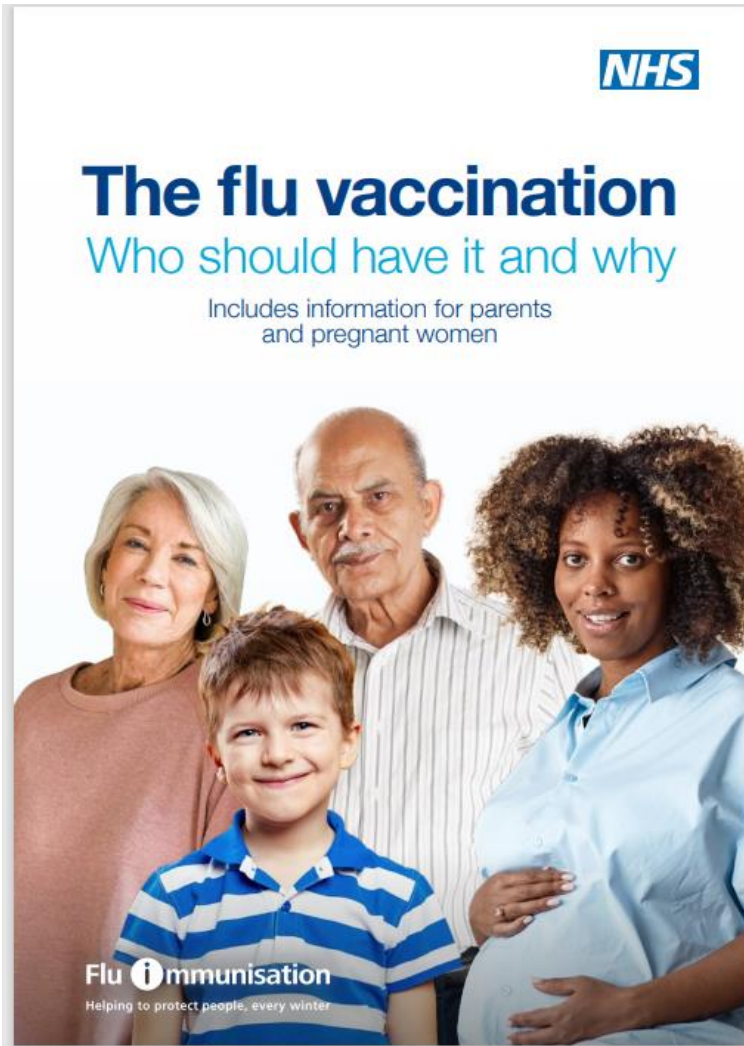
This flyer explains why adults eligible for the flu vaccine are offered it from early October. This is based on the evidence that shows that protection from the flu vaccine decreases over time in adults. It is therefore better to have the vaccine closer to when flu typically circulates.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccine-supply-when-can-you-get-your-vaccination>

Product code:
24FLUWEN

www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Swhencanigetmyfluvaccine

| All eligible groups



Product code:
FLUMW24EN

Flu vaccination: who should have it this winter and why

Paper copies of the leaflet are available to order or download in the following languages:

[Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese e \(simplified\)](#), [Chinese \(traditional, Cantonese\)](#), [Estonian](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#), [Greek](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Italian](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Panjabi](#), [Pashto](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#), [Romany](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Turkish](#), [Twi](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#), [Yiddish](#) and [Yoruba](#).

Accessible formats such as [Audio](#), [Braille](#), [BSL video](#) and [Large Print](#) are also available.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-who-should-have-it-this-winter-and-why

[Provider letterhead plus NHS logo]

Template letter for at risk patients

[GP Surgery] T [000 000 0000]
[1st address line] F [000 000 0000]
[2nd address line]
[Town/city]
[County Postcode]

[Date]

Dear [Name]

Your annual flu vaccination is now due

Flu vaccination provides the best protection against an unpredictable virus which infects many people and can cause serious illness and death each year.

Please phone [insert practice phone number] to book an appointment for your flu vaccination.

The vaccination is **free** and recommended **yearly** for those most at risk from flu. This includes:

- children aged 2 to 3 years old on 31 August 2025
- pregnant women
- people living with certain long-term medical conditions
- everyone aged 65 years and over
- people who receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if the carer gets sick
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals

Primary school aged children and secondary school children in Years 7 to 11 will be offered the vaccine at school. If there is someone you rely on to care for you, please ask them to contact their own GP Practice as they may be eligible for a free flu vaccination.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely,

[GP/Practice Nurse/Practice Manager name]
[Position/title]

For more information visit: www.nhs.uk/flujab

Page 1 of 2

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-invitation-letter-template-for-at-risk-patients-and-their-carers

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sthefluvaccinationwhoshouldhaveitandwhy-4173>

Flu vaccination consent form (combined form for nasal spray and injectable vaccine)

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools

Flu vaccination consent form



Flu can be very unpleasant for children and sometimes they end up in hospital. Vaccination helps protect your child against flu and reduces the chance of others catching flu from them. Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is quick and easy to administer and is the preferred vaccine for children.

Please complete the questions below as a small number of children cannot have the nasal spray because of medical conditions or treatments. They can be offered protection through a vaccine injection instead.

The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine) to keep the vaccine stable. If you do not accept medicines or vaccines that contain porcine gelatine, a flu vaccine injection is available that contains no gelatine. Please indicate on the form if you wish your child to have the alternative.

The school aged immunisation team can answer any questions you have. More information is available in leaflets found here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters and from www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Child's full name (first name and surname)	Date of birth
Home address	GP name and address
Postcode	
Daytime contact telephone number for parent/carer	NHS number (if known)
Email address	
School	Year group/class

Medical information (Please answer all questions)

1. Has your child already had a flu vaccination this season since 1 September 2025? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Does your child have a disease or treatment that severely affects their immune system? (e.g. treatment for leukaemia, high dose steroids) ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Is anyone in your family currently having treatment that very severely affects their immune system? (e.g. they have just had a bone marrow transplant) ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Has your child had any of the following:
 - a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to eggs requiring intensive care admission
 - confirmed severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of flu vaccine
 - confirmed severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine such as egg, neomycin gentamicin or polysorbate 80?☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Is your child receiving salicylate therapy? (i.e. aspirin) ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. Has your child been diagnosed with asthma? If your child has asthma:
 - i. Is your child prescribed regular oral steroid tablets for asthma?
 - ii. Has your child ever been admitted to intensive care because of their asthma?**If your child has become wheezy, had an asthma attack or had to increase their use of reliever inhaler in the 3 days before vaccination is scheduled, please let the immunisation team know, either before, or on the day of vaccination.**☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Are there any other medical conditions or recent/planned medical treatment that the immunisation team should be aware of? ☐ Yes ☐ No
8. If you answered Yes to any of the above questions, please give details

Consent for flu vaccination (Please complete one box only)

<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I want my child to receive the flu nasal spray vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I want my child to have the alternative flu vaccine injection	<input type="checkbox"/> NO, I do not want my child to receive any flu vaccine
If you have responded "yes" to any of the questions about medical conditions: I agree that if my child cannot have the nasal spray, they can be given a flu vaccine injection instead. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	If you have responded "yes", it would be helpful to understand why: 	If you do not want your child to have the flu vaccine, it would be helpful to understand why:
Name Parent/Guardian		
Signature		
Date		
Any other comments		

Thank you for completing this form. Please return it to the school as soon as possible.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Pre-session eligibility assessment for influenza vaccine	Eligibility for LAIV assessment on day of vaccination ¹
Child suitable for LAIV <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Heavy nasal congestion on the day of vaccination <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If LAIV not suitable, is child suitable for IIV <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	If the child has asthma, has the parent/child reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of oral steroids in the past 14 days? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Additional information	• has the parent/child reported the child being wheezy, having an asthma attack or needing more reliever inhaler over the past three days?
Assessment completed by (name, designation and signature)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date	Child eligible for LAIV <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, give details:

VACCINE DETAILS

Date	Time	Type of vaccine (please circle)	Site of injection, if applicable (please circle)	Batch number	Expiry date
		LAIV IIV	L arm R arm		

ADMINISTERED BY

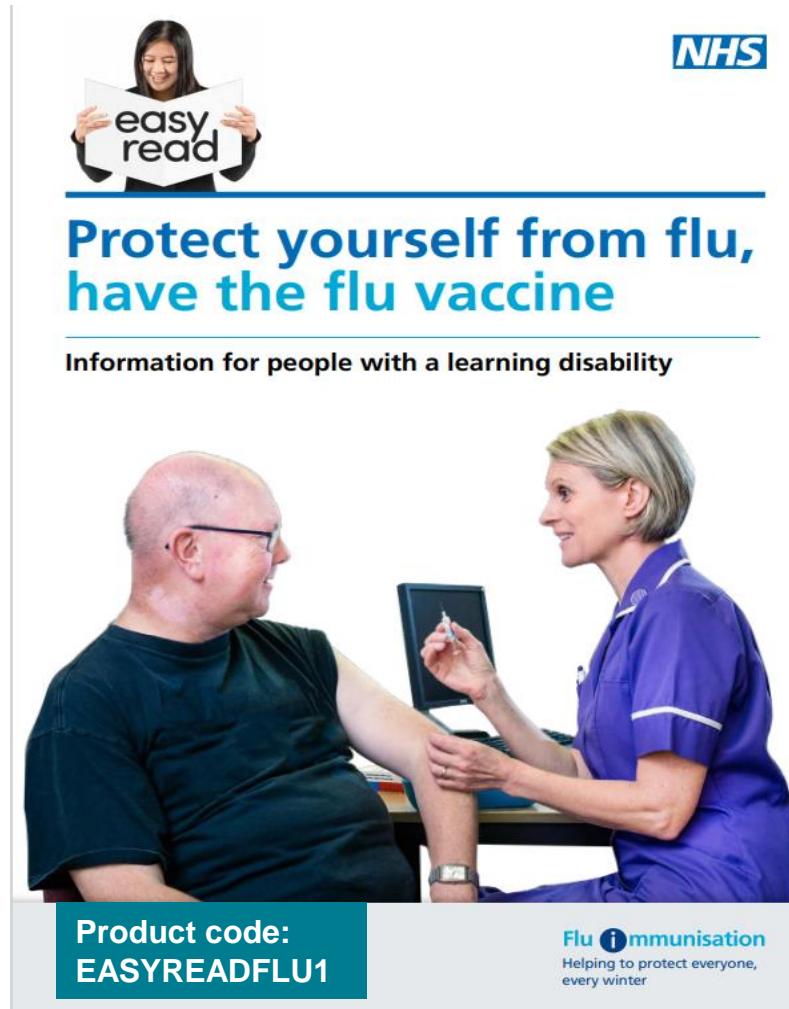
Name	Designation	Signature
Site/Clinic:		
Date:		

¹ Children with an acute exacerbation of symptoms including increased wheezing and/or needed additional bronchodilator treatment in the previous 72 hours should be offered inactivated vaccine to avoid a delay in vaccinating this 'at risk' group.

© Crown copyright 2025. UK Health Security Agency gateway number: 2024993. Product code: FLU/CON62.

[Link to consent form](#)

| Easy read for those with a learning disability



The leaflet features the NHS logo at the top right. On the left, a woman is shown holding a sign that says 'easy read'. The main title is 'Protect yourself from flu, have the flu vaccine' in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, it says 'Information for people with a learning disability'. The central image shows a male patient with glasses sitting at a desk, and a female nurse in a purple uniform standing next to him, holding a small object. At the bottom left, a dark blue box contains the text 'Product code: EASYREADFLU1'. At the bottom right, the 'Flu i mmunisation' logo is displayed with the tagline 'Helping to protect everyone, every winter'.

NHS

easy read

Protect yourself from flu, have the flu vaccine

Information for people with a learning disability

Product code: EASYREADFLU1

Flu i mmunisation
Helping to protect everyone, every winter

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sprotectyourselffromflueasyreadleaflet>

www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability



The leaflet has a blue background with white snowflake graphics. It features the NHS logo at the top right. The main title is 'Get your free flu jab' in large, bold, white letters. Below the title, there are four sections, each with a small image and a text box. The first section shows a man and a woman looking at a tablet, with text stating that some people with a learning disability can get very ill if they get flu. The second section shows a man and a woman talking, with text stating that the best way to avoid flu is to get a free flu jab. The third section shows the NHS GP surgery logo, with text stating that you can have the flu jab at your GP surgery. The fourth section shows a pharmacy sign, with text stating that you can have the flu jab at a pharmacy. At the bottom, there is a dark blue box with the text 'Product code: EASYREADFLU2' and the 'Flu i mmunisation' logo with the tagline 'Helping to protect everyone, at every age'.

NHS

Get your free flu jab

Some people with a learning disability can get very ill if they get flu.

The best way to avoid flu is to get a free flu jab.

NHS GP surgery

You can have the flu jab at your GP surgery.

Pharmacy +

Or you can have the flu jab at a pharmacy.

If you are scared of needles, tell the nurse. You may be able to have the vaccine as a nose spray instead.

Product code: EASYREADFLU2

Flu i mmunisation
Helping to protect everyone, at every age

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sprotectyourselffromflueasyreadposter>

Flu vaccination films for people with a learning disability and autistic people and their family or carers

Flu vaccination video for people with a learning disability



Flu vaccinations for carers of people with a learning disability



www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability

YouTube links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqGSm0jaF9A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ9QdwUitFg>

Use of reasonable adjustments to reduce health inequalities video

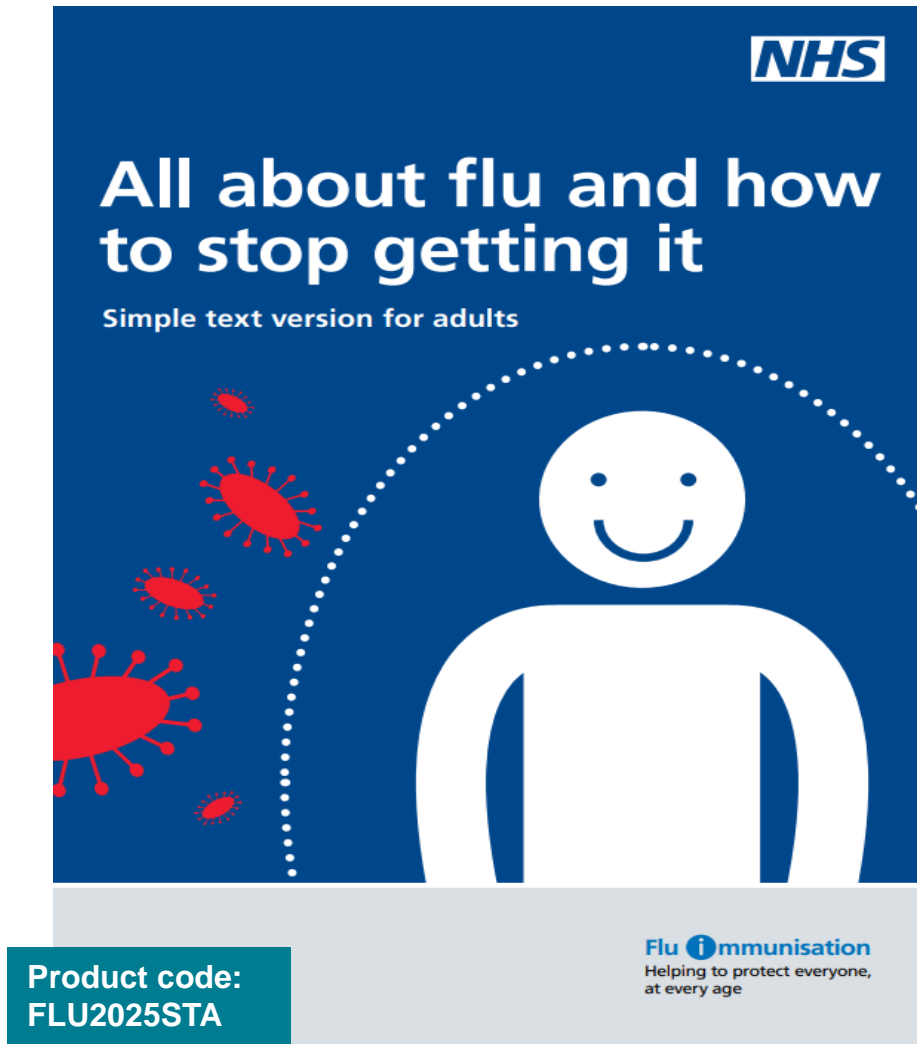


How reasonable adjustments make a big difference to health and wellbeing video



www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/improving-health/reasonable-adjustments/

| Simple text resources for those with low literacy




<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sallaboutfluandvaccinationsimpletextforadults>



<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sallaboutfluandvaccinationsimpletextforchildren-4666>

British Islamic Medical Association Flu Resources

The British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA) have updated their 2 resources which explain the benefits of flu vaccination, the Islamic position on taking up the vaccine, and how to weigh up whether your children should have the nasal spray vaccine given the porcine gelatine content and conflict with a halal diet. BIMA are happy to be contacted for any local queries on info@britishima.org and you can download these resources from: <https://britishima.org/advice/flu/>

**BIMA**
BRITISH ISLAMIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

SHOULD MY CHILD HAVE THE NASAL FLU SPRAY?


Influenza (or flu) is a common and highly infectious disease caused by different strains of the Influenza virus.

Each year vaccines are updated so that they protect against the commonest strains of flu, **saving thousands of lives.**

A flu vaccine can reduce the risk of your child getting sick by **30-60%** and prevent children being admitted to hospital because of flu.

It will also reduce the chance of vulnerable people, such as grandparents or those with long term health conditions, getting flu from your child.


THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF VACCINES IN THE UK THAT PROTECT AGAINST FLU



1. NASAL SPRAY VACCINE

This will be offered to most school aged children, some pre-school children, and to children of any age with certain long-term health conditions. It is easy and quick to give.


The nasal spray vaccine **contains porcine (pork) gelatine.**



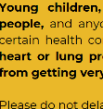
2. INJECTABLE VACCINES

All adults are offered this type of vaccine. Some children who cannot have the nasal spray because it is medically unsuitable will be offered this vaccine only.

The injectable vaccines **do not contain porcine derived products.**



Vaccination is a strong defence against a virus which causes severe illness and deaths every year




Young children, pregnant women, older people, and anyone with low immunity or certain health conditions (such as diabetes, heart or lung problems) are at higher risk from getting very sick with flu







Please do not delay a decision to vaccinate.

It is acknowledged by the NHS and public health that groups within British Muslim communities consider any porcine containing products to be forbidden, regardless of chemical transformation, whilst some allow it.

Children whose parents decline the nasal spray vaccine due to the porcine gelatine content **can request the injectable vaccine as an alternative.** This injection, which is also for adults and elderly, **has no porcine gelatine.**


Speak to a trusted religious scholar about having the nasal spray for your child if you have concerns about it's porcine gelatine content.





@BritishIMA @british.ima
www.britishima.org/advice/flu

Last updated: May 2025. See NHS.uk for latest advice

**BIMA**
BRITISH ISLAMIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

FLU VACCINATION GUIDANCE

Why is it beneficial to get vaccinated?

- 1 You will help **protect yourself** from the possible severe complications which can be caused by flu. A flu vaccine can reduce the risk of getting sick by around 30-60%, and prevent children being admitted to hospital because of flu. You may still get flu after a vaccine but it is likely to be milder and not last as long.
- 2 Being vaccinated means you can reduce the pressures on healthcare services by lowering GP and A&E attendances and by **reducing hospital admissions.**
- 3 **Reduce the chance of flu outbreaks** and protect the most vulnerable who are at high risk.

What does Islam say?

Islam promotes the idea that the rights upon us extend to the people around us. The Prophetic teachings encourage us to be kind and make us aware that we should consider the implications of our actions. If you are young and healthy, you may not be severely affected by the flu **but you could pass it on to someone who is vulnerable.**

When it comes to choosing whether or not to vaccinate, it is important that we are empowered by the altruistic values our faith gifts us to make an informed and considerate choice.



Not vaccinating could put yourself, your children, and others at risk

Do all flu vaccines contain pork gelatine?

No, there are two main types of flu vaccine:

1. The injectable vaccine **DOES NOT** contain porcine (pork) derived product and is **offered to adults.**
2. The nasal spray vaccine offered to children **DOES** contain porcine derived product.


Can Muslim parents choose which vaccine their child gets?






Yes, parents can choose to have the same injectable flu vaccine that is given to adults for their children, on the basis of religious objection. When asked to sign a consent form, let your vaccination service know your choice is because of the porcine gelatine in the nasal spray vaccine.

Most children are offered the nasal spray vaccine which is easier to administer and it may be better at preventing the spread of flu. Ask your doctor for further details so your child receives the most suitable vaccine. **Please consult a trusted scholar regarding permissibility as Islamic scholarly opinions differ.**

Where can I get a flu vaccine?

The flu vaccine should be available in schools, GP surgeries, pharmacies and other venues your local health team may advertise. **Those eligible include most children, older adults (aged 65+), those with certain health conditions and pregnant women.** Don't miss out.





@BritishIMA @british.ima
www.britishima.org/advice/flu

Last updated: May 2025. See NHS.uk for latest advice

| Weblinks

Healthcare professionals

- www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19 (for 'Green Book' chapter 19)
- www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-patient-group-direction-pgd#seasonal-influenza (for inactivated and LAIV PGDs)
- www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-for-inactivated-influenza-vaccine (national protocol)
- www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/flu-immunisation (flu immunisation e-learning programme)
- www.government/publications/flu-vaccination-programme-information-for-healthcare-practitioners (information for healthcare practitioners)

Public facing

- www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme (resources on GOV.UK)
- <https://campaignresources.dhsc.gov.uk> (for marketing resources on the Campaign Resource Centre).
- www.nhs.uk/flujab (NHS website)
- www.healthpublications.gov.uk (Health publications ordering)

Surveillance data

- www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-2025-to-2026-season (weekly disease surveillance reports)
- www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake#seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake:-figures (current and previous seasons flu vaccine uptake figures)
- www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-virus-circulation-england-and-wales/timing-of-influenza-seasons (timing of flu seasons)