

This letter contains important information.
Please retain this letter and submit the consent form online as soon as possible.

**HELP US
HELP YOU**
STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Childhood Flu programme 2019

Autumn Term 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Your child's annual flu vaccination is now due

A yearly flu vaccination is now part of the UK childhood vaccination schedule. This vaccination programme is in place to help protect your child against flu. Flu vaccination is offered each year between October and January. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family members and friends by preventing the spread of flu.

The vaccination is painless and free, given by a quick and simple spray up the nose.

Consent to vaccinate your child is now via an online consent form. We will no longer be sending out paper consent forms, so it is important that you complete the form online so that your child is able to receive their vaccination. To access the online consent form, please click on the following link

<https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/forms/flu>

You will need to enter the unique code for your child's school. The code is **OX123161 - do not copy and paste this code please enter the digits.** Please submit your form by the 9th October to ensure your child receives their vaccination. If you experience any problems accessing the form, please telephone your School Health Nurse Office (details overleaf) who will be happy to help.

Planned Date of vaccination – Friday, 18th October 2019

The nasal flu vaccination will be given in school to children in Reception class and in year groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 this year. The school nurse team will visit each primary school once. The dates are also available on our website: <https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/school-health-nurses/immunisations/flu-immunisations/>

Important parent/carer information - Please read the leaflet available [here](#) which explains the vaccination programme. If you require a hard copy, please contact your School Health Nurse Office. It is important that you read this leaflet carefully so that you are fully informed to provide consent for your child to receive the vaccination. If your child is at high risk from flu due to one or more medical conditions and can't have the nasal flu vaccine, they should have the flu vaccine by injection. Children at high risk are offered the flu vaccine each year from their GP and you can choose if you would like your child to be vaccinated in school or at your GP surgery.

Asthma- We will be unable to vaccinate your child with the nasal vaccine if they have had steroid tablets or increased use of inhaled steroids, in the two weeks prior to the vaccination session in school, or if they have been wheezy in the 3 days prior to the vaccination session in school. **Please inform your School Health Nurse Office if your child is wheezy on the day of the vaccination**

The information collected on the Consent Form will be securely sent to your child's doctor/GP practice to update their health record. The information will also be requested and securely sent to the local NHS Child Health Information Service. For further information you can read our fair processing policy here: www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/privacy/

session, please phone your School Health Nurse Office before school starts and inform the school office.

Unwell on the day - If your child is not well enough to be vaccinated, they will be invited to book into the catch up sessions.

Catch up sessions - if your child is unwell or absent on the day of vaccination, the school nurse team (not your GP) will offer appointments in December/January. Please contact your School Health Nurse Office if you need to book an appointment.

Declining the offer of flu vaccination - Please complete and submit your consent form.

If your child has already been vaccinated (or booked to have the vaccine at GPs) as they are in a high risk group, or you decide you do not want to vaccinate your child against flu, please complete and submit the consent form. If you would like to share why you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccine, this will help us plan and improve the service.

Withdrawing Consent – If you have consented for your child to be vaccinated and subsequently wish to withdraw this consent please contact your School Health Nurse Office by telephone and by e mail.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Singleton,
 Immunisation Team Leader,
 School Health Nursing

Your School Health Nurse Office Contact Details		
(on the day of vaccination please call the <u>mobile number</u>)		
School Nurse Office Base	School Nurse Assistant	Office Phone Number
Abingdon Community Hospital, Marcham Rd, Abingdon OX14 1AG	Lynn Charles Mobile: 07776 162162	Tel : 01865 904890
Email: Flu.SchoolNurses@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk For <u>non-urgent enquiries</u> . This mailbox is checked weekly.		

For further information regarding the flu vaccine please visit: www.nhs.uk/child-flu