

September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

### **Seasonal flu vaccination programme**

As part of the national vaccination programme, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust's Community Immunisation Service would like to offer the opportunity to protect children and young people against seasonal flu (influenza) this winter.

The flu vaccination programme is a high priority within public health policy every year. However, in light of the risk of flu and Covid-19 co-circulating this winter, the national flu immunisation programme will be absolutely essential to protect children and vulnerable people, including babies and elderly, and supporting the resilience of the health and care system. This offer for flu vaccinations has also been extended to include more young people in secondary school.

Children from reception year to year 11 (born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017) will be offered the nasal flu vaccination in school. Younger children aged 2 and 3 years will be offered the flu vaccination at their GP surgery.

To read information for primary school age children, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/fluprimary>

To read information for secondary school age children, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/flusecondary>

For information about the national vaccination programme, visit:  
[www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations)

Children with health conditions who normally receive the flu vaccination at their GP surgery can have their vaccination at school. Almost all children will be eligible to have the vaccine as a nasal spray. A very small number of children may be unable to have nasal spray for medical reasons. If this is the case, we will call you to explain why and discuss whether your child is eligible for an injectable vaccine.

### **Alternative gelatine free flu injection**

We recognise that gelatine used in the manufacture of the nasal flu vaccine is not preferable for some parents; therefore, we are also offering a gelatine free injection instead. When making a decision to opt for this, please bear in mind that the gelatine free injection:

- is less effective than the nasal flu vaccine;
- an injection into the muscle could be uncomfortable and daunting. Please consider whether your child or the young person will be able to comply with the injection in school without the presence of a parent. It would be helpful if you could prepare them.

The box below has instructions on how to complete a consent form, including how to opt for the gelatine free flu injection.

### TO BE GIVEN THE VACCINATION IN SCHOOL

*You can scan this QR code using your smartphone camera to go straight to our website*

- Complete a consent form ONLINE by visiting: [www.leicsandrutlandimms.co.uk](http://www.leicsandrutlandimms.co.uk)
- Select **Seasonal Flu**
- You will need the code for your school. For **Winstanley School** the school code is **LE143844**
- You will receive a confirmation email when the form is submitted.



**Top tip:** Ensure that the email addresses match and that there are no spaces or punctuation before or after the email address and the school code.

You will need to fully complete the consent form prior to the vaccination session.

You will be informed of the vaccination date by your school. These dates are also available on our website, visit: [www.leicspart.nhs.uk/communityimms](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/communityimms)

We will temporarily close the system 1 working day before the session to allow us to prepare. The system will be reopened soon after the session so you can complete a consent form and further details of an alternative opportunity for vaccination will be shared with you.

If you want to opt for the gelatine free flu injection, please complete the consent form as normal. On the consent declaration page please select “no” and the option will be given.

To inform us of any medical changes or to change your mind about the vaccination, please contact the team.

If you are unable to complete this online, please ring us on 0300 300 0007 to request support. One of our team may need to call you back in order to complete the form.

Following the vaccination, advice and information will be emailed to you and the young person’s NHS health record will be updated.

If the child or young person is absent on the day, an additional opportunity will be made available for the vaccination. **Please note this vaccine will not be routinely offered by your GP unless your child is in an at risk group.**

### Covid-19

If your child or a family member they live with is self-isolating or experiencing any of the symptoms listed below on the day of the session then **please do not attend the vaccine appointment.**

- **High temperature – you feel hot to the touch on your chest or back**
- **A new continuous cough – this means you have started coughing repeatedly.**
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you’ve noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.**

We are working closely with your child’s school to ensure that all appropriate Covid safety measures are in place to ensure the safe delivery of the vaccine.

We request that young people aged 12 and over comply with the school's policy on the use of face coverings. Our staff will continue to adhere to the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), social distancing and good hand hygiene practices to reduce the risk of transmission.

### More information

It would be helpful if you talk to your child about this vaccination to prepare them. We have developed short animated films which explains what flu is and the nasal flu vaccine. The websites are also a wonderful resource on health-related subjects and includes exciting activities and interactive content.

For primary school age children, visit: [www.healthforkids.co.uk/staying-healthy/stopping-flu](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk/staying-healthy/stopping-flu)

For secondary school age children, visit: <https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/health/flu/>

We understand some of you may have questions regarding the vaccinations that are available to you children. We will be putting on some Q&A sessions for parents with a panel of health professionals in the coming weeks. Please follow Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust on Facebook, Twitter (@LPTnhs) and Instagram (@lptnhs) for dates and details on joining instructions.

Should you have any questions you can contact the team, by telephone: 0300 300 0007, or by e-mail: [communityimmunisations.service@nhs.net](mailto:communityimmunisations.service@nhs.net) Calls volumes are high during the period we offer flu vaccinations and you may have to wait at peak times for your call to be answered.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Tim Davies  
Consultant Lead  
Screening and Immunisation  
NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands



Marie Butterworth  
Clinical Lead  
School Aged Immunisation Service  
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust

If you would like to read this letter in another language go to our website

[www.leicspart.nhs.uk/communityimms](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/communityimms)

- Arabic دا كنت ترغب في قراءة هذه الرسالة بلغة أخرى، قم بزيارة موقعنا على الإنترنت
- Gujarati જો તમે આ પત્ર ગુજરાતીમાં વાંચવા માંગતા હો તો અમારી વેબસાઈટ પર જાઓ
- Polish Jeśli chcesz przeczytać ten list w innym języku, przejdź na naszą stronę.
- Punjabi ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੜ੍ਹਨਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੀ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਜਾਓ
- Somali Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd inaad ku akhrido warqadan luuqad kale, booqo boggayaga internetka
- Urdu اگر آپ اردو میں یہ خط پڑھنا چاہتے ہیں تو ہماری ویب سائٹ پر جائیں۔

## NOTES ON COMPLETING THE ONLINE CONSENT FORM

Visit: [www.leicsandrutlandimms.co.uk](http://www.leicsandrutlandimms.co.uk)

Select Seasonal Flu by clicking the “Click here” button next to it.

On the next screen, enter and confirm your email address

Enter your school code: LE143844 and click find school. Your school name should appear.

We will temporarily close the system the 1 working day before the session to allow us to prepare. A message will appear asking you to try again after the session and offer you an alternative opportunity for vaccination.

### **Top tip:**

- To find our homepage you can also search online for “Leicester imms”
- Ensure that the email addresses match and that there are no spaces or punctuation before or after the email address and school code.

### **PART 2: Consent Declaration**

Complete this to give consent to the flu vaccination.

The option to select an injectable vaccine only will be given here.

### **PART 3: Medical History**

Complete the questions regarding vaccination history and any support required during vaccination.

**THIS FORM MUST ONLY BE COMPLETED BY SOMEONE WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.** Guidance about parental responsibility can be found at: [www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities](http://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities)

**Mature young people in secondary school may be able to consent for themselves to have this vaccination without your agreement and health professionals will assess their ability to make an informed decision.**

**Sharing information:** After the vaccination at school, a notification will be provided and the information will be added to your child’s NHS health record.

**To translate the information on the NHS website into a different language visit:**  
[www.nhs.uk/accessibility/health-information-in-other-languages](http://www.nhs.uk/accessibility/health-information-in-other-languages)