

Dear Parent / Carer,

Childhood seasonal flu vaccination programme

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

Children from reception year to year 7 will be offered the nasal flu vaccination in school.

Alternative flu injection

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

1. is less effective than the nasal flu;
2. an injection into the muscle could be uncomfortable, therefore we may not be able to give without your presence;
3. it will be available later in the flu season and then only if sufficient vaccine stocks are available and so there is likely to be a significant delay in receiving it.

Please see box below for instructions on how to opt for the flu injection.

To read the patient information leaflet about the flu vaccination, visit: www.tiny.cc/fluleaflet

For information about the national vaccination programme, visit:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations

To be given the vaccination in school you need to complete an ONLINE consent form by visiting:

www.leicsandrutlandimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu

You will need a code for your child's school. For **Thorpe Acre Infant School** the code is

LE119958

Children with health conditions who normally receive the flu vaccination at their GP surgery can now have their vaccination at school. Almost all children will be eligible to have the vaccine as a nasal spray.

It would be helpful if you talk to your child about this vaccination to prepare them. There is a short animated film that we have developed for children which explains what flu is and how the nasal flu vaccine works. You can watch this with your child by visiting: www.healthforkids.co.uk/staying-health/stopping-flu

If your child or a family member they live with is self-isolating or experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID 19 on the day of the session then **please do not attend**.

If you are 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.

We recognise that an alternative venue may need to be offered if we are unable to fully complete the vaccination session in school. The service will ensure that you are kept fully informed should this be the case.

If you are unable to complete the consent form online due to not having internet connection or an e-mail account or you have any questions about the vaccine or wish to discuss any additional support that your child may require during the vaccination, please ring us on 0300 300 0007 (select option 1 then option 4) or contact the team by e-mail: communityimms@leicspart.nhs.uk 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.