

26 August 2025

Subject: School Flu Vaccinations and MMR Status Checks

Dear Head Teacher,

Thank you for your continued support in delivering the national immunisation programme, which protects children, families, and school communities against influenza and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

School-aged vaccinations are provided by Vaccination UK in North London, and Kingston and Richmond NHS Foundation Trust in South London. Vaccine sessions are held throughout the year to children aged 4-16. This includes nasal flu (influenza), and in secondary schools, human papilloma virus (HPV), the teenage booster (TdIPV), and Meningitis ACWY (Men ACWY) and measles mumps and rubella (MMR) when missed or needed.

Your vaccination provider will be in touch shortly to schedule flu vaccinations. Given the increased circulation of measles in London, providers will also assess students' measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) immunisation status and offer vaccinations to those who are overdue or have missed previous doses.

Vaccination providers are contractually and legally responsible for all aspects of school-based immunisation delivery. Success depends on close collaboration between schools, school nurses, and community groups. We therefore ask for your support in enabling smooth delivery by:

- Appointing a named school contact to liaise with the vaccination team
- Providing a suitable date and space for the vaccination session
- Sharing e-consent forms, along with a list of eligible children and parent/carer contact details
- Facilitating access to all classes (where feasible), including those without returned consent forms, to allow vaccinators to obtain verbal consent where appropriate

Further information is available in the attached background note. For queries or support, please contact your local provider (KRNFT or Vaccination UK) directly in the first instance. For broader feedback or service improvement suggestions, please contact: ENGLAND.londonimms@nhs.net. Your local public health team works to support vaccine take up and can provide support to your setting.

We would like to remind you that schools in London can get support and advice from their local health Protection Team (HPT) in the event of outbreaks of infectious diseases. Use this link to find your local team: <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>. The resources below advise on common infections, how to manage single case, how to manage outbreaks and when to contact the HPT. Please do review them prior to the beginning of the school year.

- Preventing and controlling outbreaks: [Preventing and controlling infections - GOV.UK](#)
- Managing outbreaks and incidents and when to contact the HPT: [Managing outbreaks and incidents - GOV.UK](#)
- An A to Z guide for managing specific infectious diseases: [Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z - GOV.UK](#)

- Updated tools and resources for children and young people's settings, including a table with important exclusion advice to reduce transmission during the infectious stage: [Children and young people settings: tools and resources - GOV.UK](#)

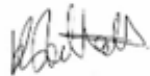
Please see the [Healthy Schools and Healthy Early Years London resource hub](#) which will be updated in early September with relevant information and resources for schools, early years providers and families, including the resources noted above.

Thank you again for your valued support in helping us protect school communities through vaccination.

Yours sincerely,



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FAQs around schools providing class lists to SAIS providers

Why are schools asked to provide class lists?

There are a few reasons why class lists are requested from schools by School-Aged Immunisation Providers (SAIS) providers. They use these lists to compare against their own circulation lists and cross-check to ensure no children are being missed during their school immunisation sessions, due to the parent not having been sent key details such as the e-consent form link, information about the different vaccinations, or catch-up clinic details. We ask that our teams provide a 100% immunisation offer. Without class lists from schools, SAIS providers must work solely from the lists provided by NHS-commissioned Child Health Information Services, which may have incomplete or out of date information, leading to the risk that children could miss their vaccination offer. They also use these class lists to record which children accept or decline the vaccination and who are yet to return their e-consent form.

In order for SAIS providers to carry out these checks, the class lists provided from schools must contain (as a minimum): **Child's First Name, Surname, Date of Birth (DOB), Gender, Full Address (including postcode), Primary Contact Number and Primary Email Address**. If there are any additional details available, these would be greatly appreciated, as it facilitates their work.

How do SAIS providers use these class lists to contact parents/carers?

The class lists need to have the most up to date contact details for parents, which SAIS providers can use to follow-up with those who have not returned consent forms either accepting or declining vaccination. SAIS providers often call parents in advance of their school visit if they have not yet returned the consent form, to ask if they want their child to be vaccinated at the session and to obtain consent verbally over the phone, alongside answering any questions they may have. They do this because parents often feedback that they did not receive the emails with the e-consent link from SAIS or the school and so were unaware of the upcoming immunisation session taking place and would like their child to be vaccinated.

How are SAIS providers GDPR approved?

GDPR is confirmed and updated each year by providers, which they send out in letter form to each school every new school term. Schools can then send on this information to parents if this is requested.

What is the e-consent process and are there paper options?

The e-consent process is the simplest way for parents to provide consent for their child to be vaccinated. A link is sent out where parents can log in, confirm the school their child attends and

other school details such as year group, class, name and DOB. They can then confirm whether they would like their child to receive the vaccine. A decline option is also present on the form, so SAIS providers stress for parents to use the link even if they don't want their child to get the vaccination. This allows the SAIS to know what their true school cohort is and how many children they will actually be vaccinating on the day of the session, as well as identify which parents may not have received the link or be aware of the need to accept/refuse consent. The e-consent option is also available in multiple languages.

SAIS are trying to discourage schools from using the paper option where possible, as this ensures better information governance and that no data gets lost. However, the paper consents contain the same information and allow parents to fill in all the details for their child. Many SAIS providers have now set-up call centres to give parents the option to provide their consent verbally over the phone, if they do not want to or do not feel confident in filling out the e-consent link themselves.

What schools can do to further support the immunisation session

The information below outlines how your school can support the immunisation sessions taking place in your schools. Your school-aged immunisation service will try and keep disruption to a minimum and will only ask you to do the things that they cannot do themselves.

As in previous years, your school will be asked to:

- work with the team to agree the best approach for implementing the programme in your school
- nominate a named contact to liaise with the team
- agree dates for the routine vaccination sessions or catch-up sessions as required
- provide class lists with contact details to support the offer to eligible children
- agree a process for providing parents or guardians with the invitation letter, information leaflet and consent form
- encourage young people and their parents or guardians to look out for the consent form and return it by an agreed time
- send reminders through your usual channels such as email or text distribution lists, parent newsletters, visual display screens, parent evenings
- communicate these key public health programmes delivered in school on your website
- let parents know which day vaccinations will take place
- let young people know what will happen and answer any questions that they or their parents have on the logistics and date of vaccinations
- bringing down all classes (where capacity allows), including those without returned consent forms, to allow SAIS providers to conduct verbal consenting on the day

Other practical considerations include:

- providing a suitable location for the vaccination to take place such as the school hall or large classroom
- ensuring the immunisation team can access the agreed space before the vaccinations are due to start, so they can set up

The above information and more can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/supporting-immunisation-programmes>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/seeking-consent-for-immunisations-in-schools>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the childhood flu vaccination

Why should children have the flu vaccine?

Flu can be a very unpleasant illness in children causing fever, extreme tiredness, aching muscles and joints, stuffy nose, dry cough, and sore throat. Children usually begin to feel better within about a week. Complications of flu include acute bronchitis, painful ear infections, and pneumonia. Some children may need to go to hospital for treatment, including intensive care.

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 also 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 can help you avoid having to take time off work, or other activities, to look after your sick child or if you become sick yourself.

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.

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 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?

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

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 can't have the nasal flu vaccine they should have the flu vaccine by injection. 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.

*See the website at www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/3296/pil for a list of the ingredients of the vaccine Information for parents and carers 11. 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.

Does LAIV contain gelatine derived from pigs (porcine gelatine)?

Yes. The nasal vaccine contains traces of a highly processed form of gelatine (porcine gelatine), which is used in a range of many essential medicines. The gelatine helps to keep the weakened vaccine viruses stable so the vaccine is able to work properly.

The nasal vaccine is easy to give and painless. Each child who has the nasal spray vaccine gets the best protection against flu. It is also considered to be the best at reducing the spread of flu. That way children protect one another and others who might be vulnerable to flu. For those who may not accept the use of porcine gelatine in medical products, an injected flu vaccine is available as an alternative. You should discuss your options with your nurse, doctor, or school aged immunisation team.

Can't my child have the injected vaccine that doesn't contain gelatine?

The nasal vaccine provides the best protection against flu, particularly in young children. It also reduces the risk to, for example, a baby brother or sister who is too young to be vaccinated, as well as other family members (for example, grandparents) who may be more vulnerable to the complications of flu. The injected vaccine is not thought to reduce spread so effectively and so is not being offered to healthy children as part of this programme. 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 more information and other formats, please see:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>
- [GOV.UK: flu vaccination for children: leaflets and posters](#) (including information in alternative languages and formats)

[YouTube: protecting your child from flu British Sign Language \(BSL\) video](#)