**ALTERNATIVE FLU VACCINE FOR CHILDREN - SEASONAL INFLUENZA PROGRAME 20/21**

The flu vaccine is offered to children aged 2 to 3 years, to children of reception and primary school age, and, for the first time this year (2020) to children in Year 7. In addition, children who are clinically at risk are offered the vaccine from the age of six months.

The vaccine is given to most children in school in the form of a nasal spray and contains a highly processed form of porcine gelatine.

If a child is at high risk from one or more medical conditions or treatments and can’t have the nasal spray, the child will be offered an alternative flu vaccination by injection.

There is a limited supply of the alternative vaccine, which is less effective than the nasal spray for healthy children, so children at risk will be prioritised for this vaccine.

**School age children – delivered by your local School Aged Immunisation Provider**

In order to prevent localised outbreaks in the 2020/21 flu season, an inactivated flu vaccine may be offered to those children whose parents refuse the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) due to the porcine gelatine content but it would not be available until November and only then if there was sufficient stock. These children remain the responsibility of the school immunisation service. Please note children in at risk groups can be vaccinated in either setting. (eg GP or SAI Provider)

**Two to three-year olds**

In order to prevent localised outbreaks in the 2020/21 flu season, an inactivated flu vaccine may be offered to those children whose parents refuse the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) due to the porcine gelatine content. This would mean waiting until November and would depend upon there being sufficient stock of the alternative vaccine. GPs should not provide the alternative vaccine before November to healthy children, because children at risk must be prioritised.

See link to Vaccine Update and wording below in regards to ordering on pages 10,11 and 12:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-311-august-2020>

**The Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine** (split virion, inactivated) from Sanofi Pasteur is now available to order by providers of the children’s flu programme:

• this vaccine has an order cap of 20 doses per week.

• this vaccine should be ordered for all eligible children aged less than 9 years who are contraindicated for, or too young to receive Fluenz® Tetra AND are in a clinical risk group.

Vaccine arrangements for children in clinical risk groups aged 9 years and over, for whom Fluenz® Tetra is unsuitable are as follows:

• those vaccinated in general practice should be offered locally procured QIVc where available. Where QIVc is unavailable, GPs can offer QIVe, either from locally procured stock or centrally supplied stock available via ImmForm.

• school aged providers can continue to offer centrally supplied QIVe.

• full details of the vaccine (and reimbursement) arrangements for this group can be found in the [flu letter published Thursday 14 May 2020.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..M5WIZSp8R3e33dgfbo17DhNfvKQwxTbpIKapmhZ2z0g/s/438570692/br/83161583892-l)