

Immunisation Service (0-19)

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Email: kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net

Website: <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/immunisation-team/>

1 October 2019

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Dear parent/carer

Your child's annual nasal flu vaccination is now due

For the first time this autumn all primary school aged children will be offered the flu vaccination. This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu, which is an unpleasant illness that can cause serious health complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu.

The vaccination is a pain-free, quick and simple spray up the nose. Even if your child had it last year, it is advisable to have the flu vaccine again this year because flu viruses are constantly changing.

Please complete the online consent form marking whether you consent **or** decline consent at <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/forms/childhood-flu-immunisation-consent-form/> **before 22 October 2019.**

Please note after this date the online consent form will close and your child will not be vaccinated in school – we cannot accept late consents. However, you can call us to book your child into a community clinic.

To celebrate being a flu hero your child will receive a stamp on their lower forearm after the nasal flu spray has been administered. This will notify you of the vaccination and ensure your child is not vaccinated twice. The stamp is hypoallergenic but if for any reason you would not like your child to receive this please call us on the number above as soon as possible.

Please visit our website www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/immunisation-team/ to access a leaflet explaining the flu vaccination programme. This leaflet also includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate. If you have any further queries, please contact the Immunisation Service on 0300 123 5205.

Yours sincerely

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley
Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

Catherine Burton
Head of School Public Health and Immunisation Service

Please note:

If your child becomes wheezy or has their asthma medication increased after you return the form, please contact the Immunisation Service on 0300 123 5205.

If your child is in an at risk health group they may also receive an invite letter from the GP. If your child is vaccinated by the GP please inform us as soon as possible.

The school flu vaccination programme ends on 31 December, after this time you will need to book your child into a community clinic which will run until the end of January 2020.