

**Childhood Influenza immunisation;
FAQs 2017/18 Season**

Where do children aged 2 and 3 receive their flu immunisation?

GP surgeries are responsible for inviting and providing flu immunisation for this group of children.

Where do children in Reception and school years, 1, 2, 3 and 4 receive their flu immunisation? (DOB: 1st Sept 2008 and 31st August 2013)

This group of children receive their influenza immunisation at school, during school hours, from the school health nurses. A letter will be sent home to parents through their child's school inviting them to receive the vaccine. The consent form is included with this letter.

What if the child in Reception or school years, 1, 2, 3 or 4 misses the immunisation date provided at school?

The school nursing service offers 'catch up' sessions for pupils who have missed the date provided at their school. A letter is sent home from the school advising parents that their child missed the immunisation and what to do next.

Can GP surgeries provide flu immunisation to children in Reception or school years, 1, 2, 3 or 4 if the child has missed the date at their school?

The immunisation should only be provided if the child is in one of the 'at risk' categories. All children not in an 'at risk' group should contact the school nursing service for dates of 'catch up clinics'.

Some parents are worried that their child may not 'cope' with having the immunisation at school and therefore wish for it to be carried out by the GP

The GP surgery should only provide flu immunisation for children in Reception and school years 1, 2, 3 or 4 if they are in an 'at risk' category and have not

received their immunisation at school. Provide reassurance that there are no needles involved and that the immunisation is delivered as a nasal spray, one sniff in each nostril. Reassure parents that the service is provided by qualified nurses who are well trained and able to care for the children.

How is the flu immunisation given to children in Reception and years 1, 2, 3 and 4 recorded in the uptake figures?

The school health nursing teams will inform the GPs electronically by sending a spreadsheet to the practice via nhs.net. It is then the responsibility of the practice to enter this data on to the patient records.

Has the school nurse flu immunisation programme commenced?

Yes. The service will begin immunising children in October 2017 and has a comprehensive immunisation programme covering Oxfordshire's Primary Schools. The programme will be completed by the second week of December. Catch up clinics will also be run. Where immunisation dates fall later in the programme, other local schools will have had earlier dates therefore boosting the herd immunity effect of the local community.

Where do children who are home schooled receive their influenza immunisation?

The school health nursing team have worked to identify those children who are home schooled and have offered immunisation opportunities. If one of your registered patients is home schooled but the school nursing service is not aware, please advise the parent to contact the school nursing service directly so immunisation opportunities can be arranged.

Resources:

Oxford Health School Health Nursing; flu immunisations page;

<http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/children-and-young-people/oxon/school-health-nursing/flu-immunisations/>