

Dear Parent / Guardian

**Your Child's Flu Vaccination is due**

From October 2017 NHS England are offering all children in school year groups reception, 1, 2, 3 and 4 a flu vaccination administered in the form of a nasal spray. On behalf of the NHS, this programme will be provided by Boots in your child's school. The vaccination will be given by a specially trained Pharmacist, who will visit your child's school during October, November or December 2017 and will be accompanied by a chaperone, who will be present for the duration of the clinics

Please find enclosed with this letter:

- The Flu vaccination Consent Form. Please complete the parent/guardian section in full and return this to your child's school by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017** if you decide not to provide consent, please return the consent form detailing your decision so as to inform future development of flu services.

**\*If the consent form is returned after this date your child may not be able to have the vaccination. Consent forms cannot be presented on the day of the clinic.**

Also enclosed:

- The Public Health England 'protecting your child against flu' information leaflet providing more details on the NHS National Flu Immunisation programme, the vaccine used and some commonly asked questions.
- Additional Frequently Asked Questions which can be found on the reverse of this letter
- The Boots Patient Guide for Clinical Services and Programme leaflet which contains more information regarding the Independent Medical Agency (which enables Boots to provide the flu vaccinations), their terms and conditions and complaints procedure should you need it.

Before consenting, you should read the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) for the medicine and possible side effects. You can access this online by logging onto [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk), searching 'Fluenz' and selecting the 'PIL' option. If you are unable to access this online, please use the contact details below to request a paper copy.

If you have any further questions about the flu vaccination having read the enclosed information please contact your local Boots Childhood Flu Immunisation Team by email at [xxxxxxxxxxx@boots.co.uk](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxx@boots.co.uk). When contacting us please state the school your child attends in the subject line and, where relevant to your query, ensure you give us your child's name and date of birth.

**Please contact your local Boots Childhood Immunisation Team if there are any changes to the answers you have provided on the consent form after you have returned it to the school, or if your child becomes wheezy or has their asthma medication increased just before or on the day of the vaccination.**

We also have a patient survey that can be found at [myfluview.boots.com](http://myfluview.boots.com), which we would be most grateful if you could complete this to provide us with any feedback about the service.

Kind Regards

*Boots Childhood Flu Immunisation Team*

## Boots Childhood Flu Vaccination Service - FAQs

### What if the details or health status of my child changes between completing the consent form and the date of the vaccination clinic?

If there are any changes to the answers you provided on your child's consent form after you have returned it to the school or your child becomes wheezy or has their dosage of asthma medication increased just before or on the day of the vaccination session, please contact your local Boots Childhood Flu Immunisation Team and ask to speak to the Pharmacist (contact details can be found in the letter) If you need to contact the pharmacist on the day of the clinic please phone your local Boots Childhood Flu Immunisation team to ensure the pharmacist receives the message promptly.

### Can I attend the vaccination at the school?

Yes; if you would like to attend the clinic, to be present when your child is vaccinated, please let the school know and contact your local Boots Childhood Flu Immunisation Team to inform them directly, (contact details can be located in the letter).

### Will I receive confirmation that my child has received the flu vaccine?

Yes; if your child has a Red Book (Personal Child Health Record) this should be sent with them on the day of the vaccination clinic. This will be completed following the vaccination of your child. If your child does not have a Red Book, s/he will be given a record to bring home to you. If your child has not been vaccinated on the day of the clinic, s/he will be given notification of this to bring home to you. This will include the reason(s) for not vaccinating plus any further actions you may need to take.

### The Fluenz patient information leaflet (PIL) states that my child will need a second vaccination as they haven't had a flu vaccination before, how will this be arranged?

Most children will only need one vaccination. This is given as one spray up each nostril. In line with guidance from the Department of Health, only children who are classed as at high risk of the complications of flu, such those with asthma or diabetes, should receive a second vaccination if they have never had a flu vaccination in a previous season. This is to help them have a good immune response to the vaccine to ensure it works as effectively as possible. If your child requires a second vaccination, this should take place at least four weeks after the first vaccination. If your child requires a second vaccination, your child will be given a Post Vaccination Form stating that a second vaccination is required.

### I have lost my consent form, how do I get another one?

Please contact your local Boots Childhood Flu Immunisation Team using the contact details in the letter.

### What will happen to the consent form after the vaccination?

The pharmacy will keep the consent form as they are required to keep a record of the consultation. The Boots pharmacist will also record the details of the vaccine they administered. If your child did not receive the vaccine, they will record the reason why the vaccine was not given.

### Who will have access to my child's information on the consent form?

Both the colleagues at your child's school and the healthcare team at the pharmacy will have access to your child's consent form. Please be advised that the consent forms will be stored securely at both the school and pharmacy premises. If preferred, you can return the completed consent form in an envelope to the school.

**How will my child's GP know that they have received the vaccine?**

The pharmacy will inform your child's GP. They will also inform them if your child did not receive the vaccine and the reason for this. If your child is not registered with a GP, it is recommended that you take steps to initiate the process of registering with one.

**How effective is the vaccine?**

Flu vaccine is the best protection we have against an unpredictable virus which infects many people and can cause severe illness and deaths each year particularly among at-risk groups, including older people, pregnant women and those with health condition(s), even one that is well managed. As with any vaccine, the vaccination may not result in complete protection against all strains of the virus it is intended to prevent. Protection is generally obtained within two weeks. Many other organisms can cause infections similar to flu during the flu season which the flu vaccine does not provide protection against.

**The PIL says that very rarely in up to 1 in 1,000,000 children a severe allergic reaction can occur. What procedures are in place if this happens?**

All our Pharmacists offering the service are trained to deal with severe allergic reactions. Please contact your doctor or pharmacist if any of the side effects become serious, or if you as the parent/guardian notice any side effects not listed in the PIL.