

**Sutton & Merton School Age Immunisation Team**

Access Morden  
141 Morden Road  
CR4 4DG  
Tel: 02035380502

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**RE: Your child's flu vaccination is now due**

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu.

With COVID-19 still in circulation it is important to reduce the number of those becoming ill with flu this winter to help protect them, the NHS and social care. Research also shows that if you get both flu and COVID-19 at the same time you may be more seriously ill.

The vaccination is free and is a quick, simple, and painless spray up the nose. Even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended to have it again this year or they won't be protected.

**Please follow the link below to complete an online consent form** to ensure your child receives their vaccination. Please fill in one consent form for each child to avoid duplication.

If you decide you **do not want to vaccinate your child against flu**, please return the e-consent form giving the reason. This will help us plan and improve the service.

**Please use this link to access the online consent form:**

<https://sav.hrch.nhs.uk/flu/2021/merton>

Please ensure you select the **correct** school for you child. There are multiple schools with similar names.

**If you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccination on the basis of porcine gelatine**, please select the **NO** consent box and choose the reason 'vaccine declined due to porcine gelatine content' from the drop-down list. The alternative injectable flu vaccination will **only** be offered at a clinic from late November.

Please ensure you select the **correct** school for you child. There are multiple schools with similar names.

The deadline for submitting your e-consent form is **midnight on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021**. Once the portal has closed, you will not be able to fill a form in and your child will not be vaccinated.

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme is enclosed and includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/999276/PHE\\_protecting\\_your\\_child\\_against\\_flu\\_leaflet\\_information\\_for\\_parents.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999276/PHE_protecting_your_child_against_flu_leaflet_information_for_parents.pdf)

The immunisation team and school will follow guidelines to ensure children are safe when being offered the vaccine. Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

If you have any queries, please contact the immunisation team on **0203538 0502** or via email

Merton Schools Email: [hrch.immunisationteam@mertonmailbox@nhs.net](mailto:hrch.immunisationteam@mertonmailbox@nhs.net)

Sutton Schools Email: [hrch.immunisationteamsuttonmailbox@nhs.net](mailto:hrch.immunisationteamsuttonmailbox@nhs.net)

Yours sincerely,

Maria Barrett

Lead Immunisation Nurse

Sutton and Merton Immunisation Team

**If your child becomes wheezy, has a bad attack of asthma, or has started oral steroids for their asthma after you return this form, please contact the immunisation team on 0203 538 0502. If your child is unwell on the day of the flu vaccination session, you must contact the school who will pass this message onto the immunisation team.**

**For further information see: [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)**