




**Birmingham  
Community Healthcare**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Advice to parents**

# **School age immunisation service. Your questions answered.**



*Best Care  
Healthy Communities*



We deliver a school age immunisation service in Birmingham and Solihull schools, to ensure all parents and young people have the relevant information to make an informed decision regarding school age immunisations. We have developed this frequently asked questions with answers from qualified health professionals for your information.

## What is the immunisation schedule for children in the UK?

- **Seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine.** Given at reception to year 11:
  - Protects against the influenza virus. The circulating virus changes every year and determined by World Health Organisation (WHO).
- **Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.** Given at year 8 (if missed in year 8, given in year 9):
  - Protects against genital warts and HPV related cancers such as cervical cancer, vaginal cancer, penile cancer and anal cancer.
- **Meningococcal (MenACWY) vaccine.** Given at year 9:
  - Protects against meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y. This can cause meningitis and septicaemia.
- **Tetanus, diphtheria and polio (Td/IPV) – 3-in-1 teenage booster vaccine.** Given at year 9:
  - Protects against tetanus, diphtheria and polio.
- We offer **Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine** if not received the full course of two MMR's previously
  - Protects against measles, mumps, rubella.

## How much does it cost?

This is a free service.

## Why should my child have the vaccines?

Vaccines protect your child from the diseases listed above. It also protects vulnerable people who cannot be immunised.

## What might happen if I do not have my child vaccinated?

Children who do not have the vaccinations offered are more likely to catch the diseases that we vaccinate against.

## Do I have to have my child immunised?


It is important to protect your child from the diseases listed, but you do not have to do so.

## What happens if my child misses the session/appointment?

If a child has missed a vaccination at school or they are home educated, there are opportunities to catch up.

If you make us aware by telephone or email we can re-book your child into a community clinic.

**BCHC School aged Immunisation Team**

 **Telephone: 0121 466 3410**

 **Email: [BCHNT.Birminghamimms@nhs.net](mailto:BCHNT.Birminghamimms@nhs.net)**

## My child is frightened of needles. How can you help?

The nurses are very experienced dealing with fear of needles. We have a leaflet that can be sent out before the appointment with advice about preparation for the vaccinations.

Alternatively, a clinic appointment can be offered to allow you to attend with your child for support.

## What do I do if my child has a reaction?

Emergency medication is taken to every venue to ensure immediate care can be given if required.

All nurses are trained and competent at dealing with emergency situations.

## Are they gelatine free? If they are not do you have an alternative?

Gelatine is found in these vaccines below:

- the nasal flu vaccine (Fluenz)
  - an alternative is the flu injection which we can provide.
- one of the MMR vaccines (MMRVaxPro)
  - Priorix (this is the only MMR vaccine offered by us, which is gelatin free).

None of the other vaccines offered contain gelatine.

## What kind of reaction my child might experience?

Some children may have a fever or pain at the site of the injection. Paracetamol/Calpol can help reduce this.



**Too many immunisations in one go can they be given separately?**

Yes, we can give them separately.

**I have read that there is a link between immunisations and autism. Is this true?**

MMR vaccine does not cause autism.

All vaccines used in the UK are thoroughly tested, meet strict safety criteria and are monitored carefully once in use.

**How can I trust that these immunisations are not covid vaccines?**

Covid vaccinations are separate vaccines, and each individual vaccine protects against a specific disease

**My child appears to be unwell, should they still have their immunisations?**

If your child has a minor illness without a fever, such as a cold, they can have their vaccinations as normal.

If your child is ill with a fever you should put-off the vaccination until they are better. This is to avoid confusion if the fever gets worse so you can be sure it is not a response to the vaccine



### **My child is allergic to eggs can they have the vaccine?**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and evidence from multiple studies show that both the nasal flu and MMR vaccines are safe for children with egg allergies.

### **My child is immunocompromised – should they still have the immunisation?**

All children that are immunocompromised are safe to have inactivated vaccinations.

Nasal flu and MMR are the only live vaccinations administered within the programme, and these would not be given to your child unless advised by medical professionals.

