



September 2024

**Re: Nasal Flu Vaccine for pupils in Primary Schools**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In this pack you will find information about the nasal flu vaccine. Please read the information, complete the consent form and return it in the envelope provided.

The flu vaccine is recommended for all children aged 2-17 years. This year children in primary schools are being offered the flu vaccine in school by HSE vaccination teams. The vaccine that your child is being offered is called Fluenz. It is a safe and effective vaccine that is given as a nasal spray.

**What you will find with this letter**

- Information about the vaccine and the disease it prevents. Please read this information carefully and you can also use it to discuss this vaccination with your child.
- Consent form for vaccination.
  - Please complete consent form.
  - Return this form in the envelope provided before the vaccinations begin.
  - This form must be completed in BLOCK CAPITALS in pen and signed by the parent or guardian.

**What you could do to help on the day of vaccination**

On the day of vaccination, please make sure your child:

- Eats breakfast
- Brings their immunisation record card/immunisation passport to school, if they have one.

Please contact the HSE vaccination team before your child is vaccinated if there are any changes in your child's health.

If you have consented to vaccination, please let your vaccinator know before the date of vaccination if your child:

- has had influenza antiviral medications in the 48 hours before their vaccine is due, they should not get the vaccine.
- has an acute exacerbation of asthma, including increased wheezing and/or needed additional inhalers in the previous 72 hours they should not receive the nasal flu vaccine.
- has received a dose of the flu vaccine from their GP or Pharmacist since the consent form was completed.
- is unwell with a sudden fever (as vaccination should be delayed until recovery).



Visit [www.hse.ie/flu](http://www.hse.ie/flu) for more information about this vaccine and for contact details for the HSE vaccination team.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lucy Jessop', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Lucy Jessop  
Consultant in Public Health Medicine – National Immunisation Lead National Immunisation Office  
MRCN 424447

If your child has never had a flu vaccine before and is aged under 9 years, they may need a second dose of flu vaccine if they have any of the following conditions:

- Chronic heart disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic neurological disease
- Chronic renal failure
- Chronic respiratory disease (including cystic fibrosis, moderate or severe asthma)
- Diabetes mellitus
- Any condition that might mean they cannot breathe well (e.g., a spinal cord injury, seizure disorder, or other neuromuscular disorder)
- Down syndrome
- Cancer
- Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment including asplenia or hyposplenism
- Moderate to severe neurodevelopmental disorders such as cerebral palsy and intellectual disability

Participating GP practices or pharmacists can give your child a second dose of LAIV vaccine for free at least 4 weeks after their first dose. Visit [www.hse.ie/flu](http://www.hse.ie/flu) for more information.