

Which flu vaccine should children have?

There are 2 types of flu vaccine available for children in 2020 to 2021 – the ‘live’ nasal spray vaccine and the injected inactivated flu vaccine. This chart indicates which vaccine children should have.

What is the child’s age?

under 6 months of age

They are too young to have the flu vaccine (this is why it is important that expectant mothers have a flu vaccination. Pregnant women can have the flu vaccine at any stage of their pregnancy)

6 months to under 2 years

Are they in an at-risk group?

Yes

No

They should have the injected inactivated flu vaccine (licensed for appropriate age). Children aged up to 9 years who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses 4 weeks apart

2 or 3 years old

Are they in an at-risk group?

Yes

No

Are there medical reasons why they can’t have the nasal spray vaccine?

They should have the nasal spray vaccine (unless contraindicated)⁽ⁱ⁾

4 to 11 years old in reception class and in school years 1-7

Are they in an at-risk group?

Yes

No

Are there medical reasons why they can’t have the nasal spray vaccine?

They should have the nasal spray vaccine (unless contraindicated)⁽ⁱ⁾

12 to under 18 years

Are they in an at-risk group?

Yes

No

Are there medical reasons why they can’t have the nasal spray vaccine?

They are not eligible for the flu vaccine

They should have the injected inactivated flu vaccine (licensed for appropriate age): 2 years to 8 years Quadrivalent influenza vaccine egg-grown (QIVe), 9 years and above Quadrivalent influenza vaccine cell-grown (QIVc) or Quadrivalent influenza vaccine egg-grown (QIVe). Children aged up to 9 years who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses 4 weeks apart

Yes

No

They should have the nasal spray vaccine (unless contraindicated). At-risk children aged up to 9 years who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses 4 weeks apart⁽ⁱ⁾



(i) Some people may not accept the use of porcine gelatine in medical products such as LAIV, for details on alternative vaccine offer available later in the season see PHE information for healthcare practitioners ‘The National Childhood flu Immunisation Programme 2020 to 2021’.

Annual flu programme

www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme

Green Book Chapter 19 Influenza

www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19