

November 2023

Influenza (flu) vaccination

Dear Parent/Guardian

We will be offering flu vaccination to all students in Year 11 this autumn and winter.

Flu can be a very unpleasant illness, and for some it can cause serious complications. The vaccination programme is in place to protect your child against flu. It also helps to protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing its spread.

For most children and young people, the vaccination is given as a quick and painless spray up the nose. Information about the vaccination programme is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters.

The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of purified porcine gelatine. This is an essential ingredient to keep it stable and able to work. For those who may not accept medicines or vaccines that contain porcine gelatine, a flu vaccine injection is available.

Next steps:

- To consent for your child to have the flu vaccine please follow the steps below. Consent is to be given by someone with parental responsibility. If you do not wish your child to have the flu vaccination, please still fill in the consent form as you will have the choice to decline it.

**The session for Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School is on 30/11/23.
The online consent form closes at 11am, two working days before the session.**

1. **Click on the following link:** <https://www.bwimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>
2. **Enter and confirm your preferred email address** – you will receive a confirmation email following submission of the consent form.
3. **Enter your school code: BW144799**
4. **Complete and submit the consent form**, indicating your choice of consent - *please ensure you provide your child's registered address and GP.*

Important information: - If your child is aged 16 on the day of the school vaccination session, the law states that they must be the person who is asked to give consent unless they are not able to make the decision. Therefore prior to vaccination an immuniser will ensure your 16-year-old child is happy for the vaccination to progress. If you do not return consent or indicate that you do not want your 16-year-old child to be vaccinated, your child will not be seen by an immunisation nurse in school. Please note:- All students in year 11 have been sent information about the flu vaccination. Information includes how they can access vaccination at a community clinic if you have not returned consent for them to have vaccination at the school session.

When you have submitted the online consent, please contact the School-aged Immunisation Team if any of the following apply:

- Your child becomes wheezy, has a bad attack of asthma, or has started oral steroids for their asthma
- Your child is prescribed any new medication
- Your child receives their flu vaccination elsewhere (such as GP or chemist etc.)
- You change your mind about your child receiving/not receiving the vaccination

On the day of your child's vaccination in school, you will receive an email to confirm the vaccination was administered. Details about your child's vaccination will also be put on their health record and shared with their GP.

Further information, such as the planned dates of the vaccination in your child's school can be found on our Bridgewater NHS website, using this address: www.tiny.cc/imm. You can also visit the website by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone or tablet.

Our dedicated website also includes information about:

- The different school-aged vaccination programmes we deliver
- Patient information leaflets for the vaccines we use
- Updates to any planned delivery schedule we need to change at your child's school



Thank you for taking the time to read this important information. If you have any questions or would like your child to receive the flu vaccine injection, please contact your local School-aged Immunisation Team using the details below.

Yours sincerely

School-aged Immunisation Team

Halton Borough

Tel: 0151 495 5066

Email:

BCHFT.haltonimmsteam@nhs.net

Warrington Borough

Tel: 01925 946808

Email:

BCHFT.warringtonimmsteam@nhs.net