**Schools’ Bulletin entry – School aged flu vaccination programme 2023-24**

A vital part of protecting the whole population from flu is to vaccinate children, who are at risk of becoming unwell and who we also know are ‘super-spreaders’, passing the virus more easily to older people and other vulnerable groups. This year, pupils will once again be offered a free flu vaccination by the school age immunisation service, Vaccination UK.

**Important information about this year’s flu vaccination programme:**

* All vaccination clinics must be completed by **15 December 2023**. This includes any second visits to the school and catch-up sessions. It is therefore vital that schools work closely with Vaccination UK to ensure as many parents / carers as possible return their consent forms in time for the first clinic.
* All pupils from **reception to Year 11** will receive their vaccine in the school setting except those with certain medical conditions.
* Vaccination is delivered via a quick and painless nasal spray. However, for parents / carers who require a porcine-free alternative an injectable vaccination is available and this can be requested via the consent form.
* Parents / guardians will be issued with a link to an electronic consent form, which must be completed no later than **5 days before the clinic**. The consent form is available via this link: <https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2023/wolverhampton>
* Paper consent forms and information in alternative formats are available by request. You can contact Vaccination UK to request this by telephone: 01902 200077 or email: wolverhampton@v-uk.co.uk
* The local NHS, Local Authority Public Health and Education Teams encourage all schools to enable Vaccination UK nurses to speak to children whose parent’s / guardians have not consented for the purpose of attempting to gain verbal consent via a telephone call. This contact will be made either by the pupils own mobile telephone if appropriate or facilitated by Vaccination UK who will have telephones available during sessions. Please be assured vaccinations will only ever be given with parental consent.

The Wolverhampton Public Health Team have developed a brand-new set of resources to support schools in promoting the uptake of flu vaccination and how to stay healthy over winter, to help reduce the potential for absences as well as disruption caused by outbreaks. Resources are available via the new “[Bug Busters](https://bugbusterkids.co.uk/index.html)” website and include:

* an immunisation best practice guide
* lesson and assembly-plans
* an animation and story about winter health
* Bug Buster poster competition for KS1 and KS2 pupils
* template promotional materials including text messages for parents/ guardians
* “Flu Fighters” storybooks
* links for [e-consent](https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2023/wolverhampton) and documents from Vaccination UK

All resources can be downloaded now via [Bug Buster Kids | Schools Resources](https://www.bugbusterkids.co.uk/school-resources.html).