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**NHS**  
**England**

# Webinar on the national childhood immunisation programme

13 November 2023

# Webinar content

- Welcome
- Overview of the routine childhood immunisation programme and the value of vaccines
- Vaccination programmes delivered in schools
  - Seasonal childhood influenza vaccination programme
  - Adolescent vaccination programmes
- Update on measles and outbreak response
- How can schools support School Aged Immunisation Providers?
- Signposting to resources
- Q&A



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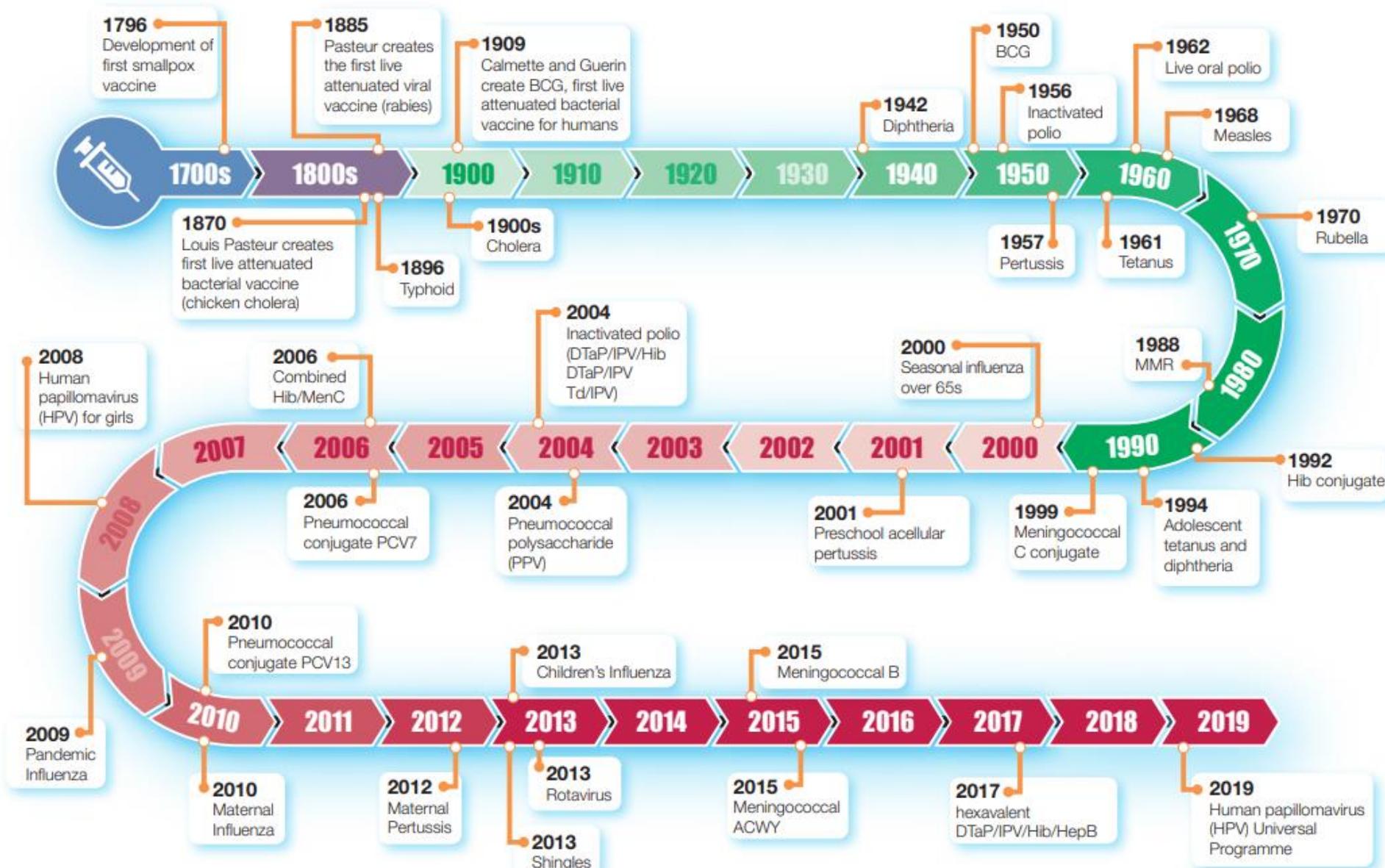
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# Overview of the routine childhood immunisation programme and the value of vaccines

## Vanessa Saliba



## Historical vaccine development and introduction of routine vaccine programmes in the UK



# UK routine childhood immunisation schedule



**8-16 weeks:**

- 6-in-1
- MenB
- Rotavirus
- Pneumococcal



Measured at 1yr, 2 yrs,  
5 yrs



**1 year:**

- MMR
- Hib / MenC
- Pneumococcal booster
- MenB booster



Measured at 2 yrs & 5 yrs



**3 years,  
4 months:**

- 4-in-1 pre-school booster
- MMR



Measured at 5 yrs

Delivered in GP practices by practice nurses

# UK routine childhood immunisation schedule



**12-13 years  
(school year 8):**

- HPV – boys and girls

Delivered mainly in schools by School Aged Immunisation Services

Sep 2023: evidence generated over last decade resulting in change from 2 to 1 dose programme.  
Started as 3 dose programme in 2008.



**14 years  
(school year 9):**

- 3-in-1 teenage booster
- MenACWY

# Benefits for educational settings

The World Health Organization (WHO) says:

**“The 2 public health interventions that have had the greatest impact on the world’s health are clean water and vaccines.”**

Vaccines help:

- provide a **healthy environment** in educational settings and in the wider community, including among the children and staff’s immediate and extended family
- reduce the likelihood of **outbreaks** in educational settings – take a lot of resource to manage
- reduces pupil and staff **absenteeism** rates



# Parental attitudes to vaccination

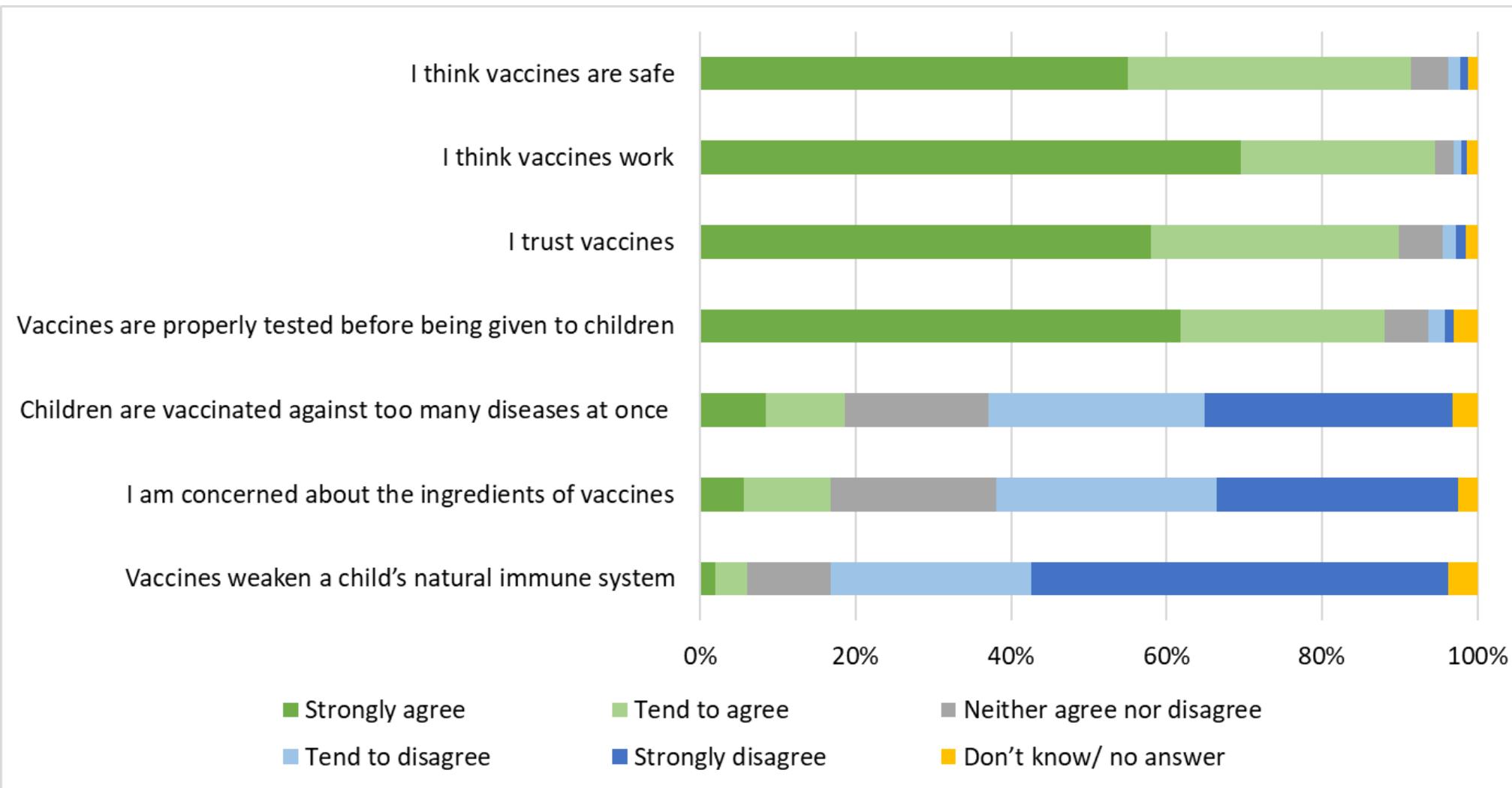
UKHSA conducts annual attitudinal surveys with:

- Parents of children aged less than 5 years
- Parents of teenagers and teenagers

Parents have a high level of **confidence** in the programme

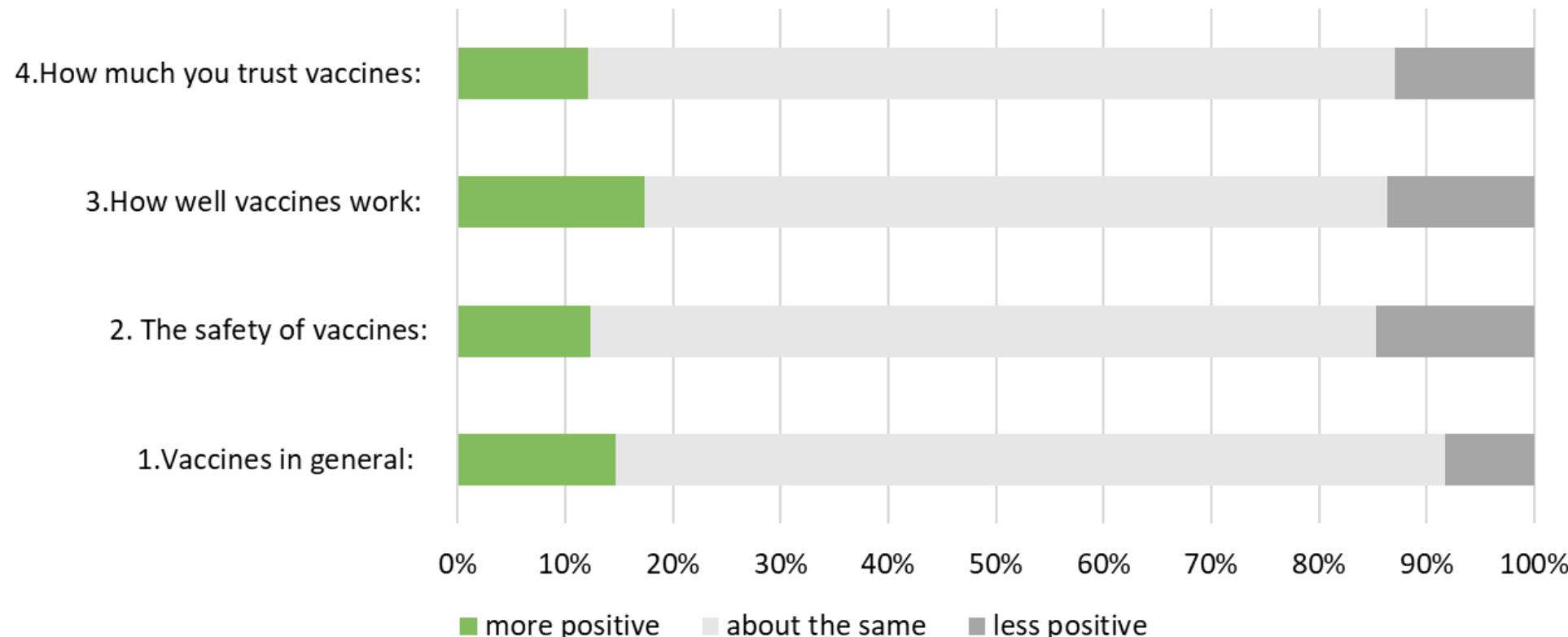


# 95% of parents think vaccines work, 91% of parents think vaccines are safe and 90% trust vaccines



# Sep 2022 Survey: In general, parents did not feel that press and media interest in COVID-19 vaccine had changed how they felt about vaccines

Q. There has been a lot of press and social media interest in COVID-19 vaccine. Overall, do you think this has changed how you feel about vaccines generally in the following ways?



# Embedding learning about immunisation into the curriculum

- This guidance [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-and-health-education-guidance) states that by the end of primary school pupils should know the facts and science related to immunisation and vaccination and that this knowledge should be further developed in secondary school.
- We also recommend introducing the concept of immunisation to children and young people, educating them on how vaccinations work and why they are such a critical intervention to preventing certain infections. Free lesson plans have been developed through the [e-Bug](https://www.e-bug.org.uk) programme, operated by UKHSA.
- The [EDUCATE programme](https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/programmes/pshe-education/programmes/pshe-education-11-16/pshe-11-16) co-designed by young people is an excellent teaching tool all about HPV for secondary schools: [University of Bristol: EDUCATE \(pshe-association.org.uk\)](https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/programmes/pshe-education/programmes/pshe-education-11-16/pshe-11-16)



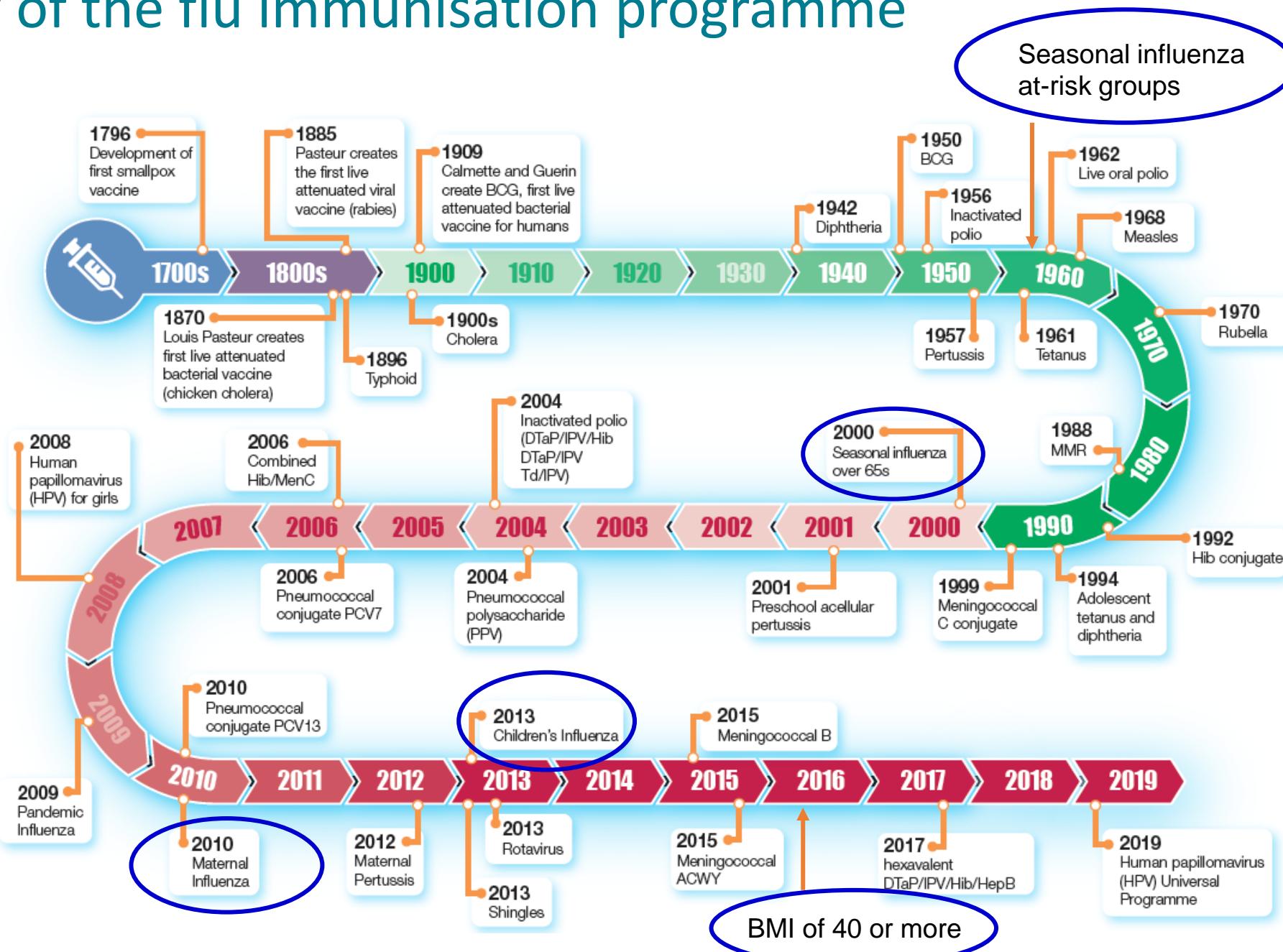
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# Seasonal childhood influenza vaccination programme

Suzanna McDonald

# History of the flu immunisation programme



# History of the healthy children's programme

2012 - Newly licensed live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV)

- JCVI statement (2012)
- Recommended introduction of flu vaccination of healthy children aged 2 to 16 years of age
- direct and indirect impact



# Schools programme – Vaccine uptake in England

School	Group	Age	Flu season									
			2022 to 2023	2021 to 2022	2020 to 2021	2019 to 2020	2018 to 2019	2017 to 2018	2016 to 2017	2015 to 2016	2014 to 2015	2013 to 2014
Pre-school	2y	2y	43.7	50.1	56.7	43.8	43.0	42.8	38.9	35.4	38.5	42.6
	3y	3y					45.0	44.2	42.5	37.7	41.3	39.5
Primary school	Reception	4 - 5y	56.7	56.9	64.2	64.3	64.3	62.6	33.9	30.0	32.9	
	Year 1	5 - 6y	56.4	58.9	64.5	63.6	63.6	61.0	57.6	54.4		
	Year 2	6 - 7y	57.5	58.8	63.7	62.6	61.5	60.4	55.4	52.9		
	Year 3	7 - 8y	57.3	58.0	63.2	60.6	60.4	57.6	53.3			
	Year 4	8 - 9y	56.2	57.3	61.8	59.6	58.3	55.8				
	Year 5	9 - 10y	55.6	56.2	61.1	57.2	56.5					
	Year 6	10 - 11y	54.2	55.8	59.2	55.0						
Secondary school	Year 7	11 - 12y	45.2	48.5	56.2							
	Year 8	12 - 13y	40.7	45.8								
	Year 9	13 - 14y	39.6	42.2								
	Year 10	14 - 15y		42.0								
	Year 11	15 - 16y		38.9								

# Schools programme – Impact in England?

## Flu vaccine pilot success

In flu vaccine pilot areas (2014/15) where primary school age children were given the nasal spray vaccine we saw:



Public Health  
England



↓ 94%

**Primary school aged children:**  
GP influenza like illness consultation rates 94% lower



↓ 74%

**Primary school aged children:**  
A&E respiratory attendances 74% lower



↓ 93%

**Primary school aged children:** Hospital admissions due to confirmed influenza 93% lower

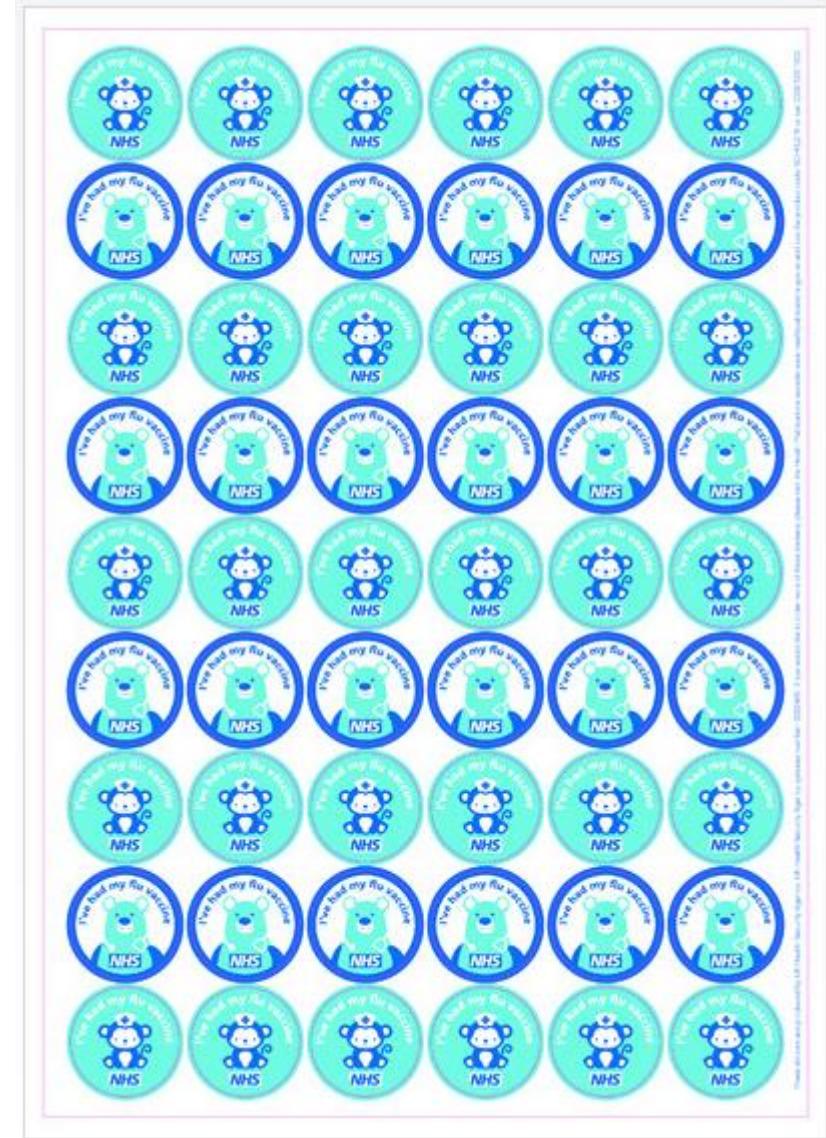


↓ 59%

**Adults:** GP influenza like illness consultation rates 59% lower

Uptake and impact of vaccinating school age children against influenza during a season with circulation of drifted influenza A and B strains, England, 2014/15

# Resources





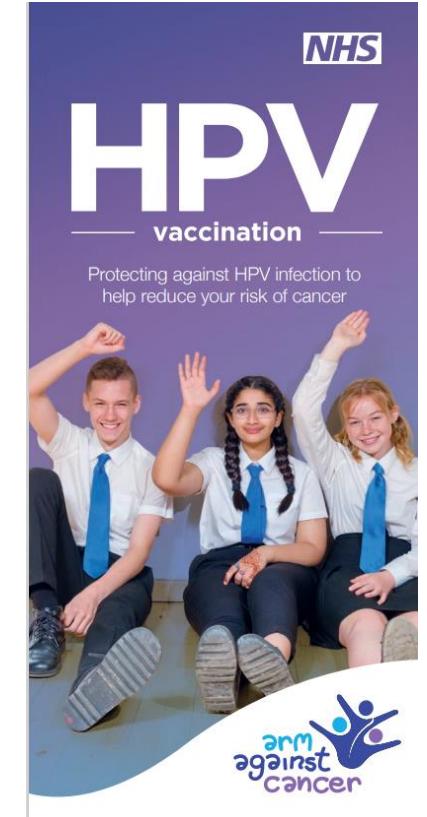
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# Adolescent vaccination programmes

Vanessa Saliba

# What do the three vaccines offered protect children from?

- 1. HPV vaccine (now one dose only in Y8) protects children from:**
  - Cervical cancer (~4000 new cases a year, 30% die within 5 years)
  - HPV-related cancers of head and neck and genital areas
- 2. Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (Y9) protects children from some causes of:**
  - meningitis
  - septicaemia
- 3. 3-in-1 teenage booster (Td/IPV vaccine, Y9):**
  - last booster dose in course to provide lifelong protection from tetanus, diphtheria, polio



**Catch-up of children who missed out during pandemic – ongoing MMR vaccine check and offer**

# Vaccines save lives and reduce health inequalities

## Cancer News

The latest news, analysis and opinion from Cancer Research UK

Science & Technology

Health & Medicine

Personal Stories

Opinion

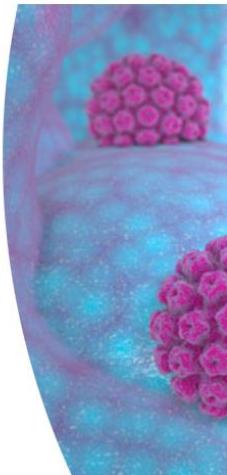
Charity

Health & Medicine

**“The power of science”: HPV vaccine proven to dramatically reduce cervical cancer**



by **Lilly Matson** | Analysis  
3 November 2021



➤ *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 2017 Oct;71(10):954-960. doi: 10.1136/jech-2017-209113.  
Epub 2017 Jul 29.

**The impact of bivalent HPV vaccine on cervical intraepithelial neoplasia by deprivation in Scotland: reducing the gap**

Ross L Cameron <sup>1</sup>, Kimberley Kavanagh <sup>2</sup>, D Cameron Watt <sup>1</sup>, Chris Robertson <sup>1 2 3</sup>,  
Kate Cuschieri <sup>4</sup>, Syed Ahmed <sup>1</sup>, Kevin G Pollock <sup>1</sup>

- 2021 The Lancet study: Cervical cancer rates **down by 87%**
- Very good evidence from Scotland that **the programme is reducing inequalities** with biggest impact seen in women from deprived areas

## Vaccine uptake among children in England has fallen since start of pandemic

UKHSA says adolescent vaccination rates have faltered, leaving many at risk of catching deadly diseases

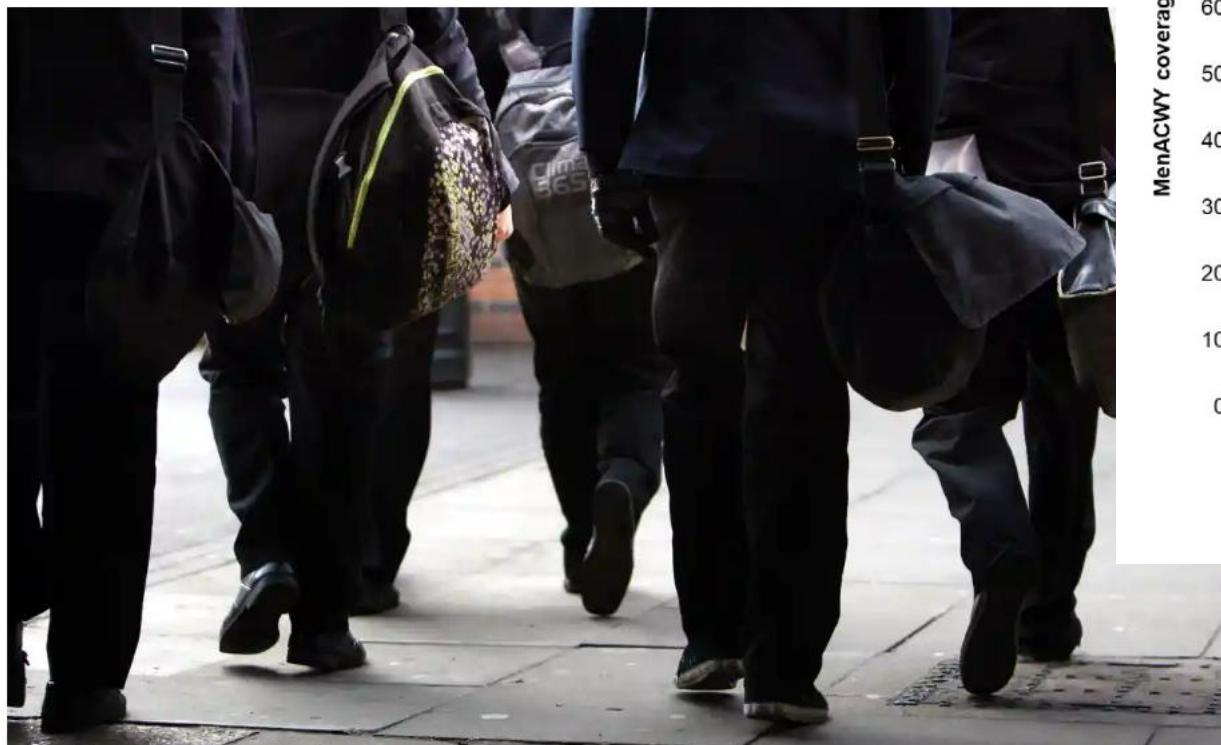
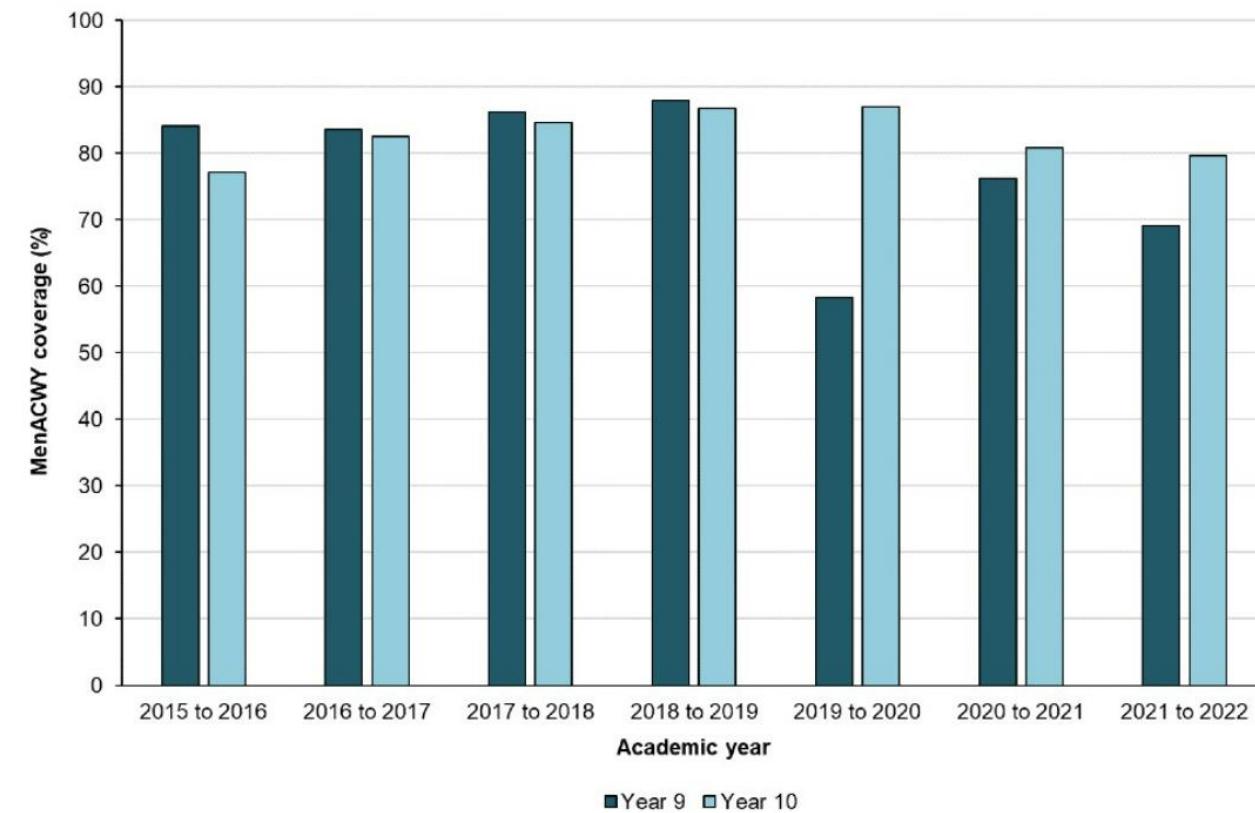


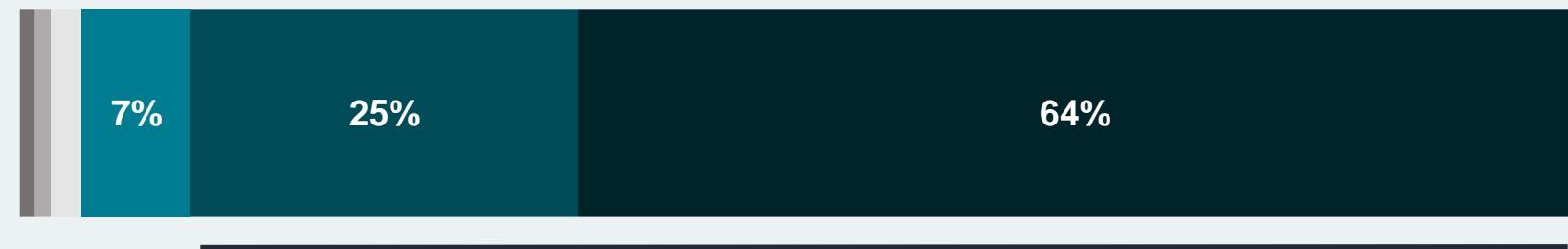
Figure 1. MenACWY coverage in adolescents in school years 9 and 10 by academic year from 2015 to 2022



# Are parents happy with the school vaccine delivery and consent process?

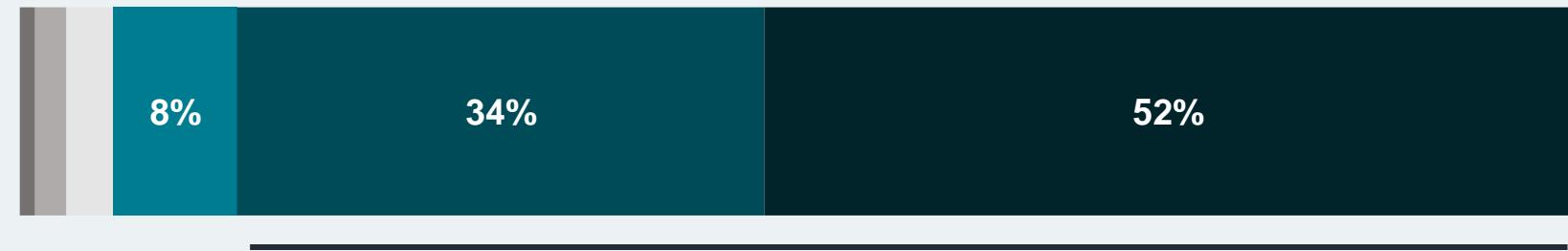
■ Don't know ■ Strongly disagree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Tend to agree ■ Strongly agree

I am happy that the  
teenage vaccines are  
delivered at school



89% agree

I have/had enough  
information to make my  
decision about teenage  
vaccines



86% agree

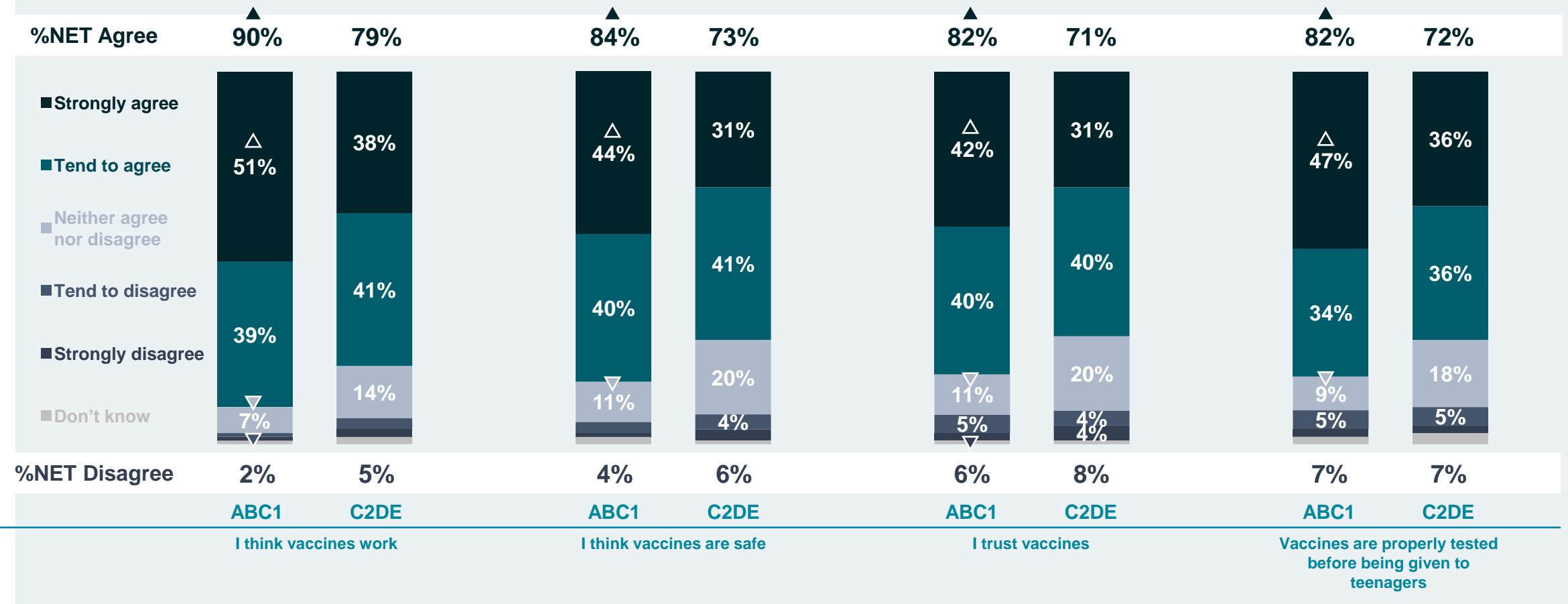
\*Figures under 4% not shown

Source: Basis Research, Parents and Teenage Vaccinations. Q19. Now considering your child(ren) aged 13 to 15 who have been offered any teenage vaccines. To what extent do you personally agree or disagree with each of the following statements concerning teenage vaccines?

22  
Base: All parents of eligible teenagers whose child(ren) have been offered teenage vaccines (n=981)

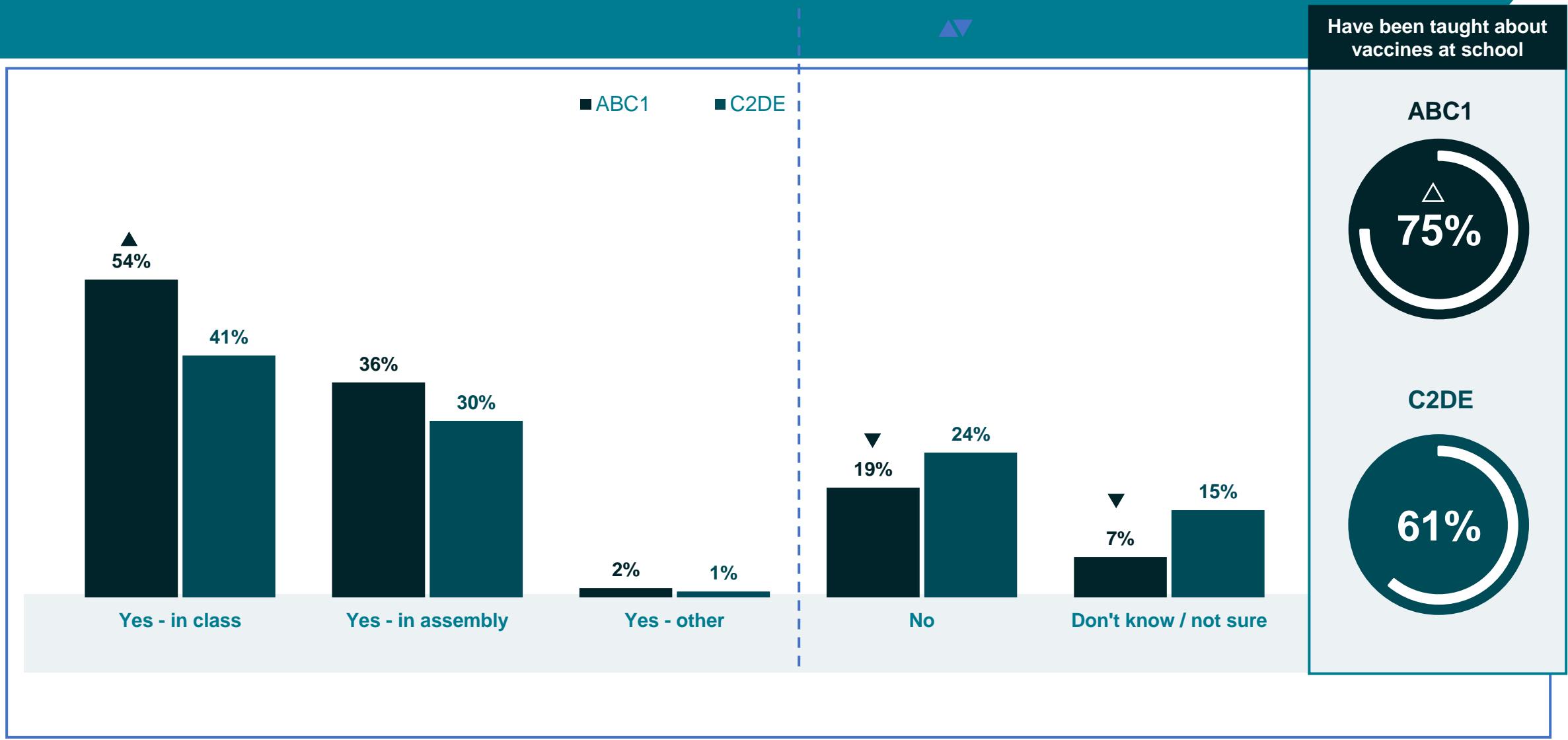
Most parents trusted vaccines and agreed that they were safe, effective and had been properly tested. There were significant differences between social grades

▲▼ Significantly higher / lower vs. C2DE



\* Figures under 4% not shown

# Most teenagers reported having been taught about vaccines in schools but there were significant differences between social grades





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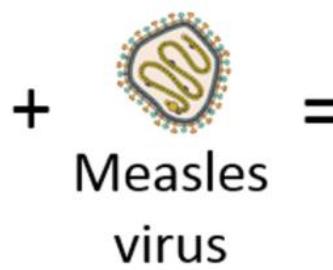
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# Update on measles and outbreak response

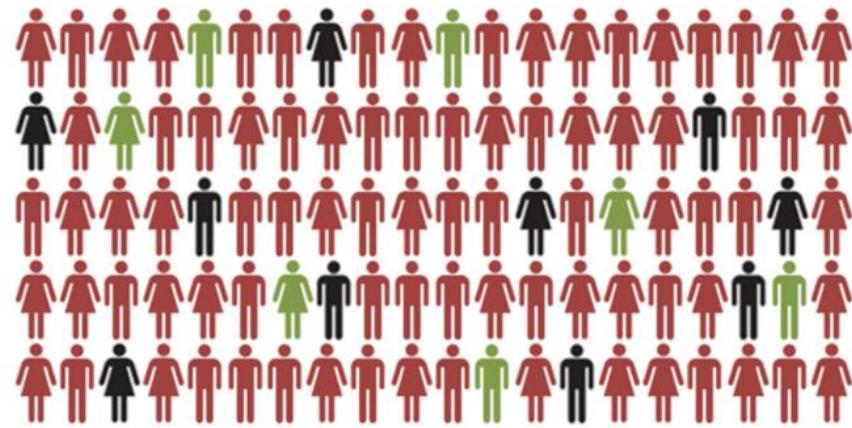
## Vanessa Saliba

# What is measles?

100 susceptible people  
(e.g. not vaccinated against measles)



About 90 people will catch measles,  
7 with complications .



## Symptoms:

- cough and runny nose,
- conjunctivitis
- high fever
- rash

## Vulnerable groups:

- children <1 year
- pregnant women
- people with weakened immune systems

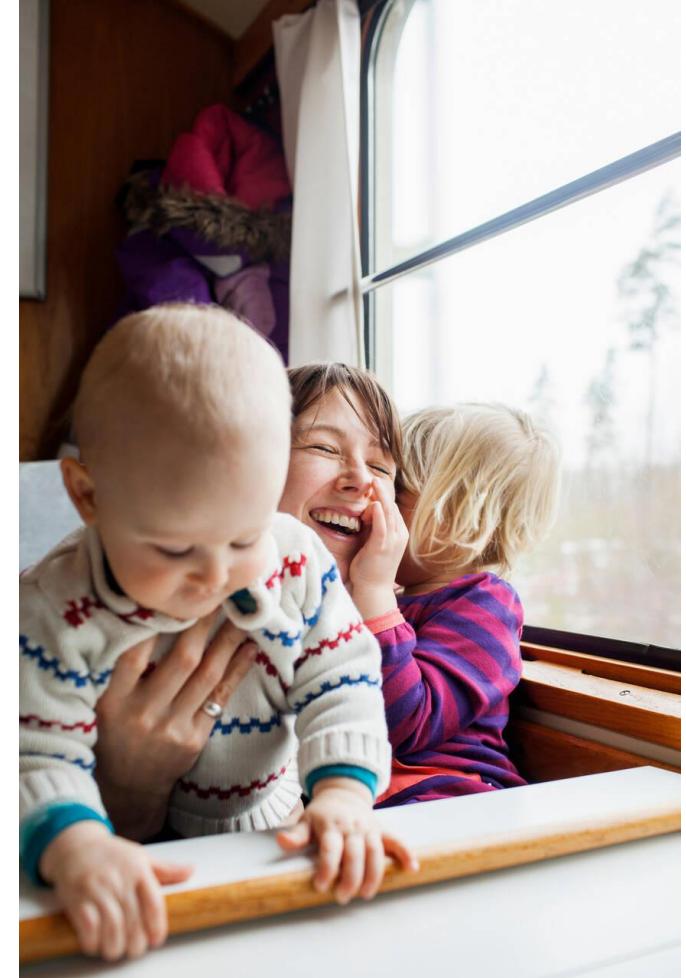
# Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccination schedule in UK

Two doses of the MMR vaccine give you life long protection from measles. Offered routinely to children aged:

- 1 year
- 3 years and 4 months

**If you missed out you can catch up for free on NHS whatever your age** – contact your GP practice.

10% of children starting school in England (20% in London) have not had their MMR vaccine



# Why are we worried about measles?

## CURRENT EPIDEMIOLOGY

### 2023 to date England:

- >160 cases
- ~60% in London
- Cases in all Regions
- ~57% in children <10 years
- 25% in 15 to 35 year olds

## UKHSA Modelling

**LONDON** could sustain an outbreak with tens of thousands of cases

Rest of the country - risk of outbreaks in specific populations:

- teenagers and young people
- inner city areas
- under vaccinated communities

Vaccines and immunisation

**Hannah Devlin**  
Science correspondent

@hannahdev  
Fri 14 Jul 2023 12.57 BST

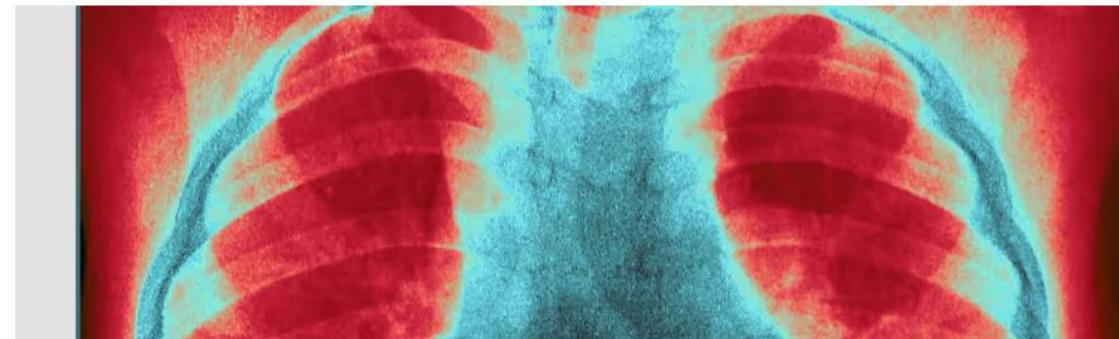


**The  
Guardian**  
Newspaper of the year

## London at risk of major measles outbreak, UK Health Security Agency warns

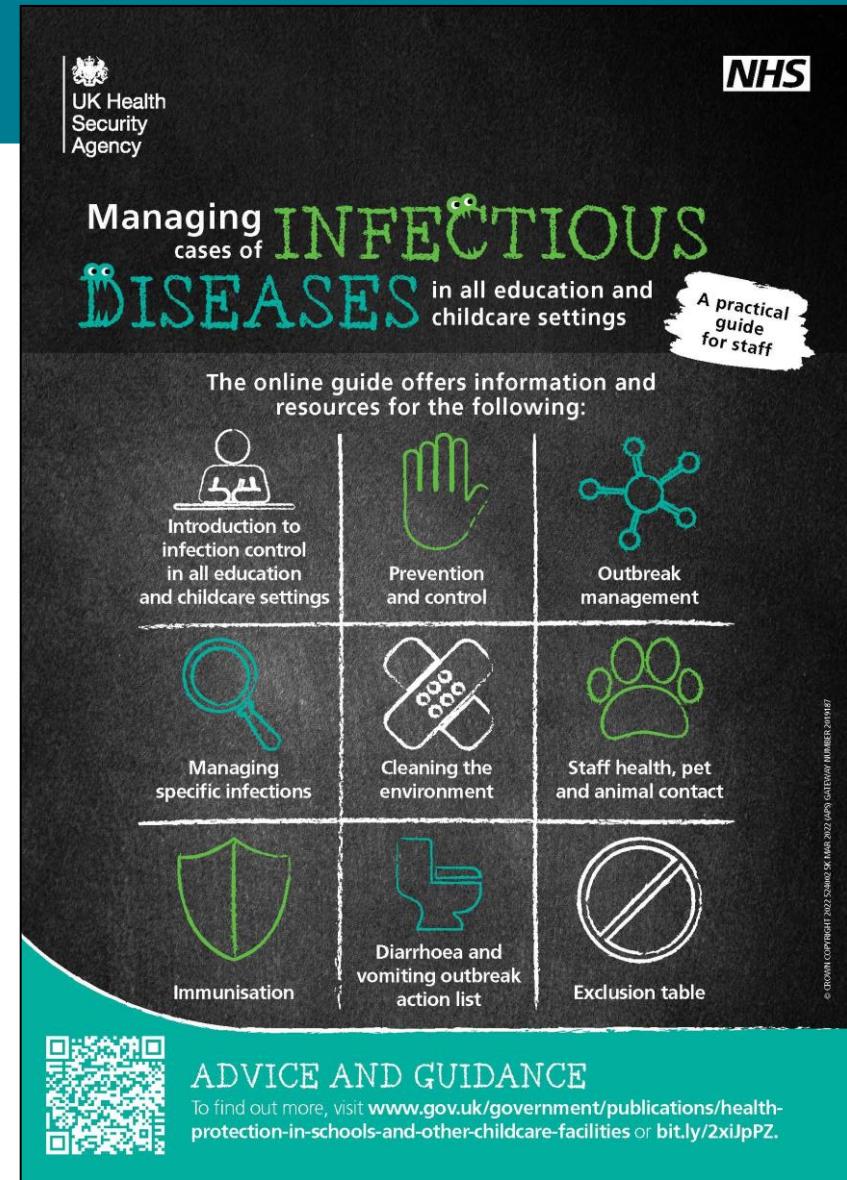
Thousands could be hospitalised and dozens die if MMR vaccine take-up doesn't rise, say immunologists

**Explainer: Why are there fears of an outbreak and what can be done?**



# Managing cases and outbreaks in educational settings

- Follow UKHSA guidance: [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education](#)
- Notify suspected cases to your [local](#) UKHSA Health Protection Team
- Outbreak Management Team led by UKHSA in partnership with setting, wider health system and LA partners
- Warn and inform letters to parents and staff:
  - advice re-signs and symptoms
  - advice re-exclusion
  - urgent catch-up +/- offer of vaccine clinic at setting



# School Aged Vaccinations

The role of schools in supporting the  
delivery of this public health  
programme

Presented by:

Laura Hope – Head of Public Health (Immunisations)

Public Health Commissioning & Operations

NHSE England

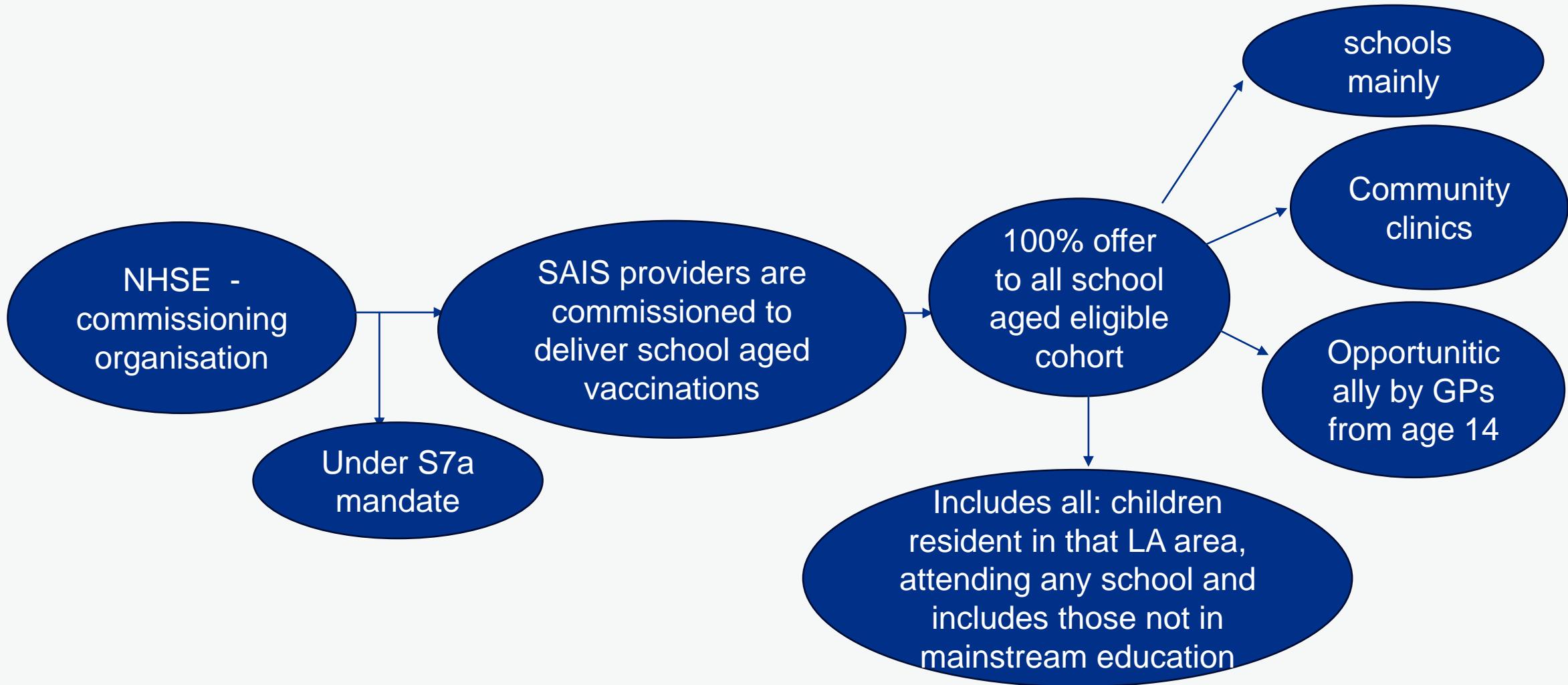
Date of webinar: 13/11/2023

# Duties and Delegations



- The Secretary of State for Health & Social Care has a duty to provide vaccination services which is set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Appropriate steps and considerations must be in place for the purpose of protecting the public in England from disease or other dangers to health
- The provision of school aged vaccinations is one of them
- Under the NHS Act 2006, Section 7a, The Secretary of State has asked NHS England to fulfil this specific responsibility to commission services to vaccinate children and young people in schools under the Public Health Functions Agreement

# Commissioning pathway for school aged vaccinations



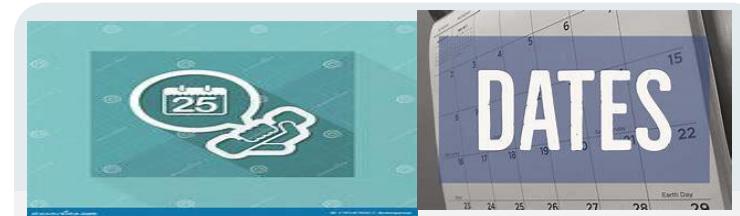
# What can schools do to support these vaccination programmes?



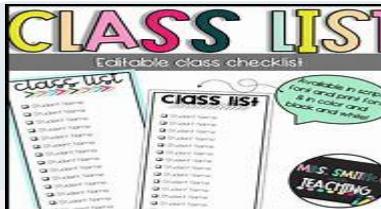
Partnership working with SAIS Team to agree the best approach for implementing the programme in your school



Nominate a named contact to liaise with the SAIS team and discuss and identify the best communication route



Agree dates for the routine vaccination sessions or catch-up sessions as required



Provide class lists with contact details to support the offer to eligible children

## Offer



Agree a process for providing parents or guardians with the invitation letter, information leaflet and consent form

## RETURN ON TIME

Encourage young people and their parents or guardians to look out for the consent form and return it by an agreed time

# What can schools do to support these vaccination programmes?



Send reminders through your usual channels such as email or text distribution lists, parent newsletters, visual display screens, parent evenings



Let young people know what will happen and answer any questions that they or their parents have on the logistics and date of vaccinations



Communicate these key public health programmes delivered in school on your website



Provide a suitable location for the vaccination to take place such as the school hall or large classroom



Let parents know which day vaccinations will take place



Ensuring the Immunisation Team can access the agreed space before the vaccinations are due to start, so they can set up

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# Thank You



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england.nhs.uk



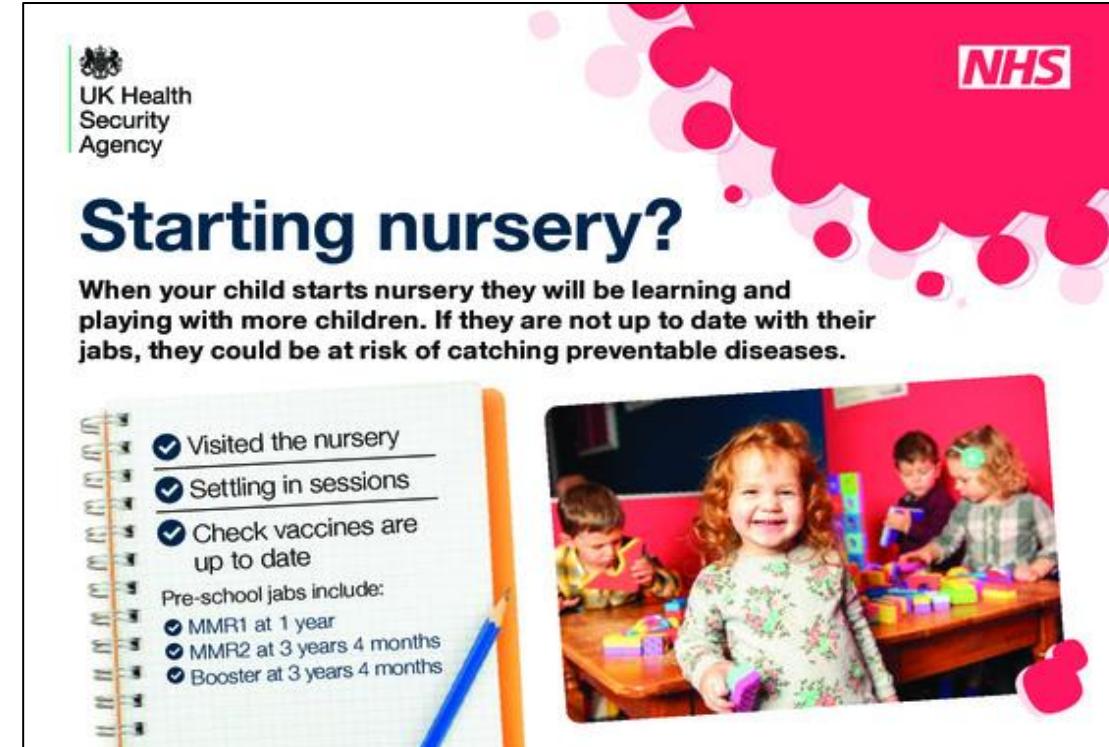
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# Resources and key take away messages – Vanessa Saliba

# Immunisation resources for educational settings

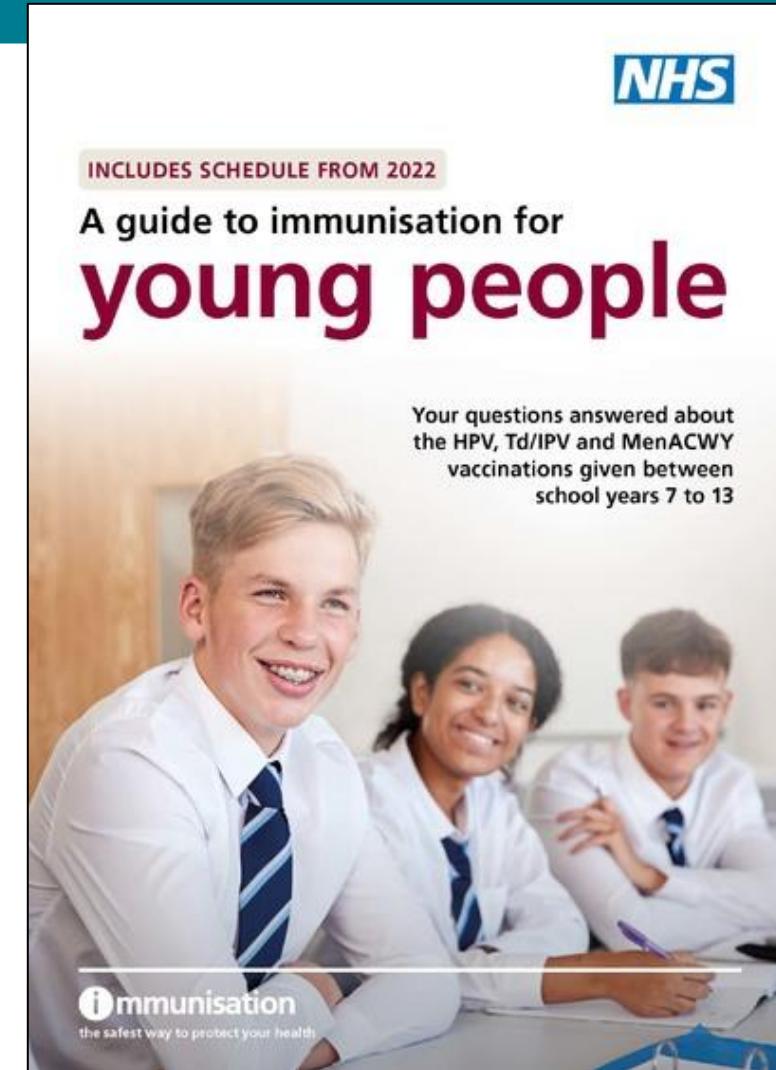
- UKHSA produces: i) guidance, ii) posters, iii) leaflets, iv) social media content etc
- **Share these with students, parents or carers at key opportunities** e.g. school entry with reminders each academic year. Higher education settings are also
- Settings may wish to speak to their health visitor, school nurse or other setting specific health care worker about the support they can offer.



The image shows a poster from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) titled 'Starting nursery?'. The poster features the UKHSA logo and the NHS logo in the top right corner. The title 'Starting nursery?' is in large, bold, blue text. Below the title, a text box states: 'When your child starts nursery they will be learning and playing with more children. If they are not up to date with their jabs, they could be at risk of catching preventable diseases.' To the left of the text box is a checklist with a pencil icon. The checklist includes: 'Visited the nursery', 'Settling in sessions', 'Check vaccines are up to date', and 'Pre-school jabs include: MMR1 at 1 year, MMR2 at 3 years 4 months, Booster at 3 years 4 months'. To the right of the text box is a photograph of three young children playing with colorful blocks at a table.

# Immunisation resources for educational settings

- Copies of **printed publications** and the full range of digital resources to support the immunisation programmes can be ordered through the [health publications platform](#) or phone 0300 123 1002
- Many of the resources are available translated in **multiple languages and accessible formats.**



# Take away messages

- Vaccines:
  - **save lives**
  - **keep children (and staff) in school**
  - **reduce disruption due to outbreaks**
- Delivering vaccines in schools **increase uptake** and **reduces inequalities**
- Teaching children about immunisation **increases the resilience of the programme by empowering the parents of tomorrow** to make informed decisions
- Schools can support the delivery of the immunisation programmes by:
  - working in partnership with SAIS teams
  - nominated key contact to support planning and logistics
  - sharing class lists/contact details with SIAS team
  - supporting communications with parents, invitations, consenting, reminders



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Thank you  
Any questions?



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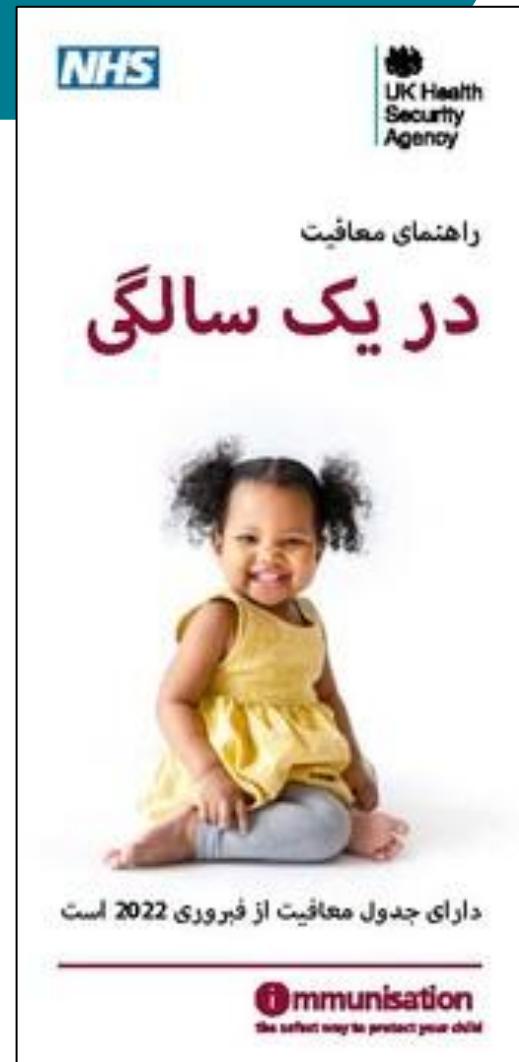
## ADDITIONAL SLIDES - RESOURCES

# Guidance documents:

- Health protection in children and young people settings, including education
- Adolescent vaccination programme: briefing for secondary schools 2023 to 2024
- Flu programme – briefing for primary schools 2023 to 2024

# Early years: Immunisations at one year quick guide

- This leaflet is a short guide to the vaccinations babies need at one year of age which includes the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of MMR.
- This leaflet is available free to order or download in the languages below. Orders of the translated leaflets will be dispatched as soon as stock is available.
- [English](#), [Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese\(Simplified\)](#), [Chinese\(Traditional\)](#), [Cantonese](#), [Estonian](#), [Dari](#), [French](#), [Farsi](#), [Greek](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Italian](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Panjabi](#), [Pashto](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#), [Romany](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Turkish](#), [Twi](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#), [Yiddish](#), and [Yoruba](#).



# Early years: Immunisations at one year quick guide

- This leaflet is a short guide to the vaccinations babies need at one year of age including their first dose of MMR.

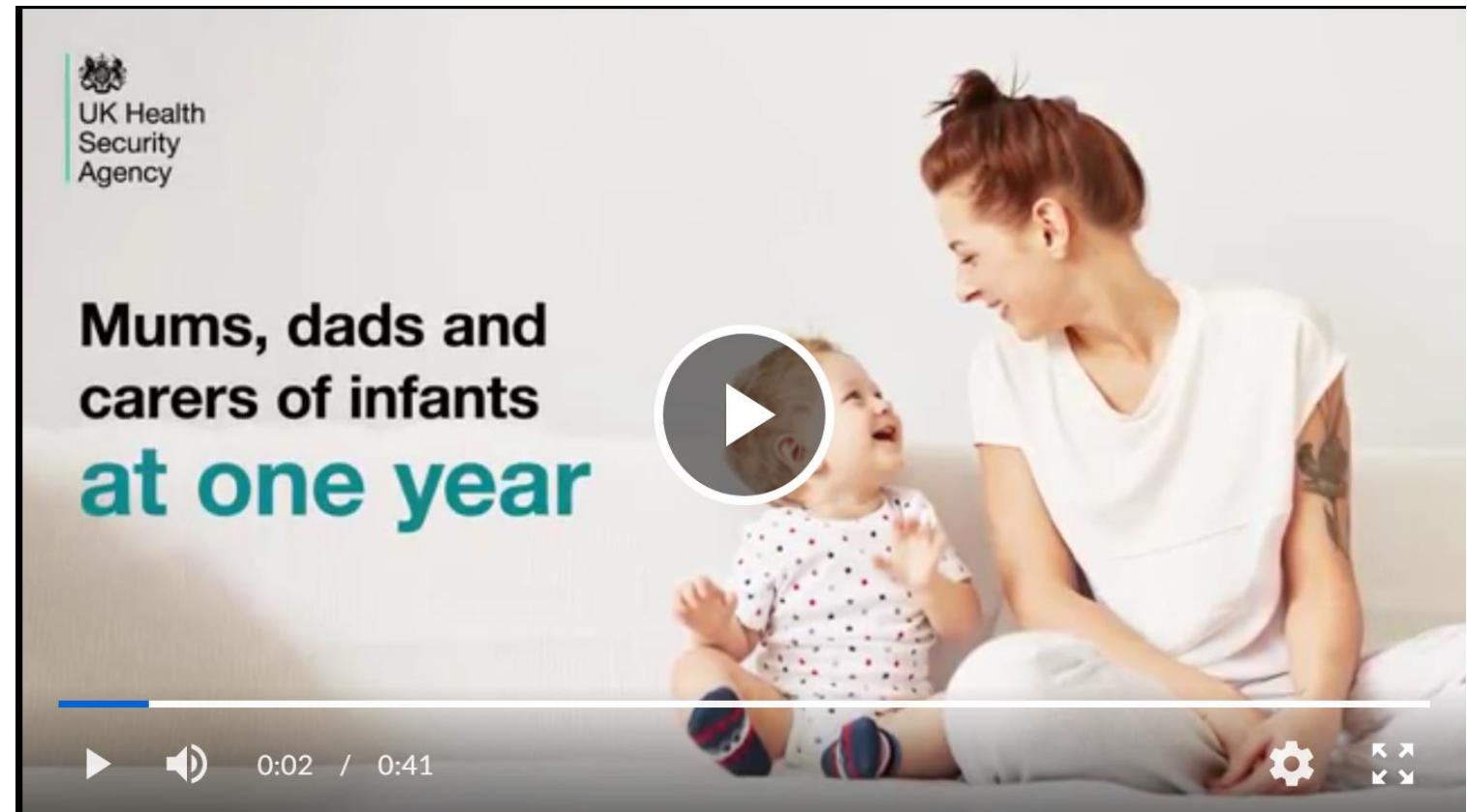
Accessible versions of this leaflet are also available free to order or download:

- [audio](#)
- [Braille](#)
- [British Sign Language \(BSL\) video](#)
- [large print](#)



# Early years: One year vaccinations reminder video for parents

- This video is to remind parents about the vaccinations their child needs at one year of age, including their first MMR vaccine.
- You can view and download it [here](#).

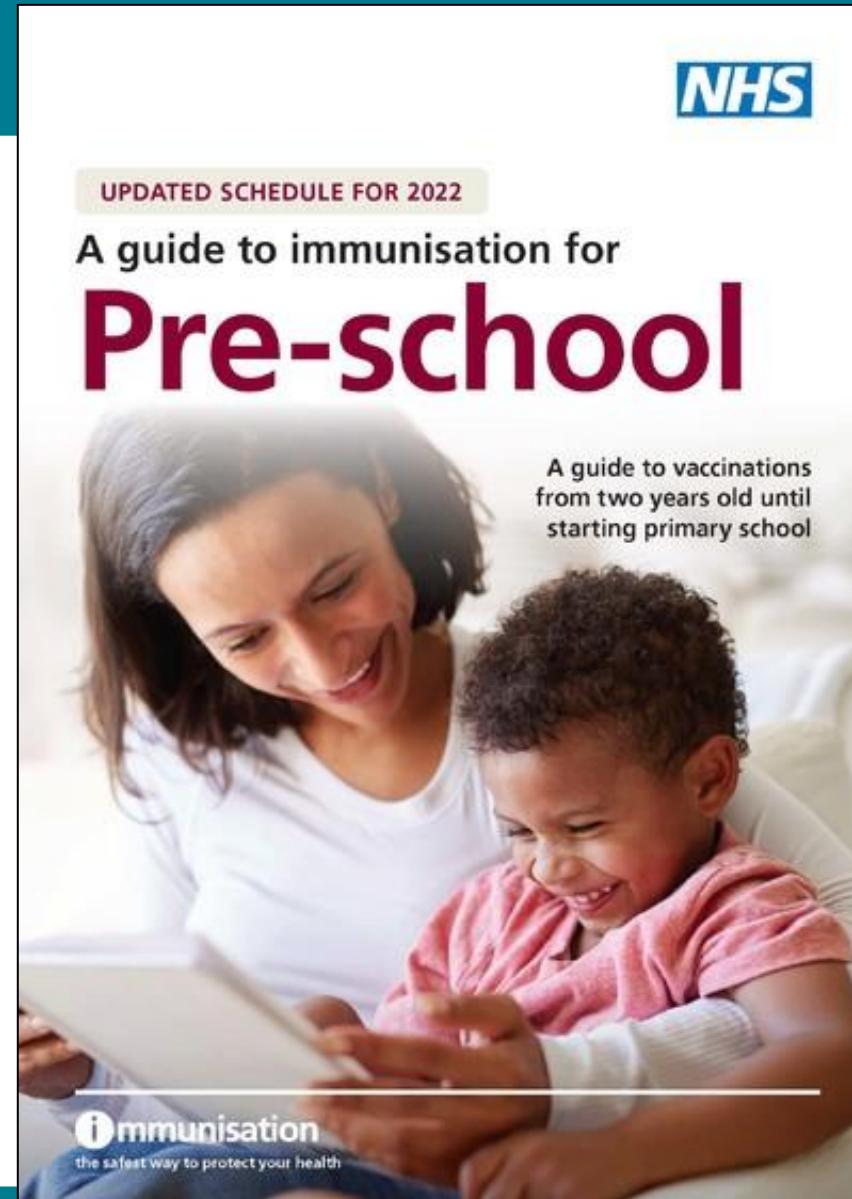


# Early years: Guide for parents of pre-school children

**All nursery and primary schools should have a good stock of these leaflets for new parents visiting the school on tours and at annual fêtes or fairs or large events.**

This leaflet includes the February 2022 schedule:

- the MMR booster
- the diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio booster
- the annual childhood nasal flu programme
- revised routine immunisation schedule and selective immunisation schedule from February 2022
- Use product code [22PSC34EN](#) to order this leaflet.



# Early years: Pre-school vaccinations reminder video for parents

- This video is suitable for digital screens in all health settings. It does not have sound.
- It can also be shared on social media channels.
- You can view and download it [here](#)

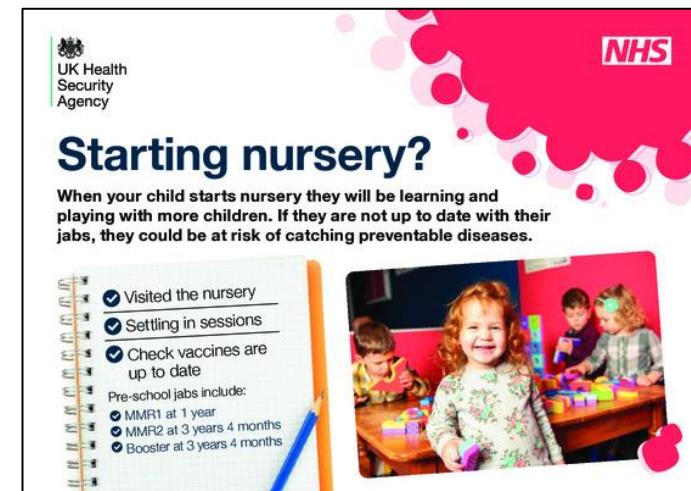


# Back to or starting nursery, primary or secondary school reminder postcards

The postcards are suitable for all GP, school and nursery staff to send out to parents and carers of children as a reminder to prompt them to check that their child is up to date before starting or coming back to school.

They are available free to order:

- [Primary school postcard](#)
- [Secondary school postcard](#)
- [Nursery postcard](#)



# Back to school reminder posters – order your copies now

The posters are suitable for all GP, school and nursery staff to display at school entrances, on doors and notice boards and in traffic areas for parents and carers of children, as a reminder to prompt them to check that their child is up to date.

They are suitable for all GP practices, schools and nursery settings and are available free to order:

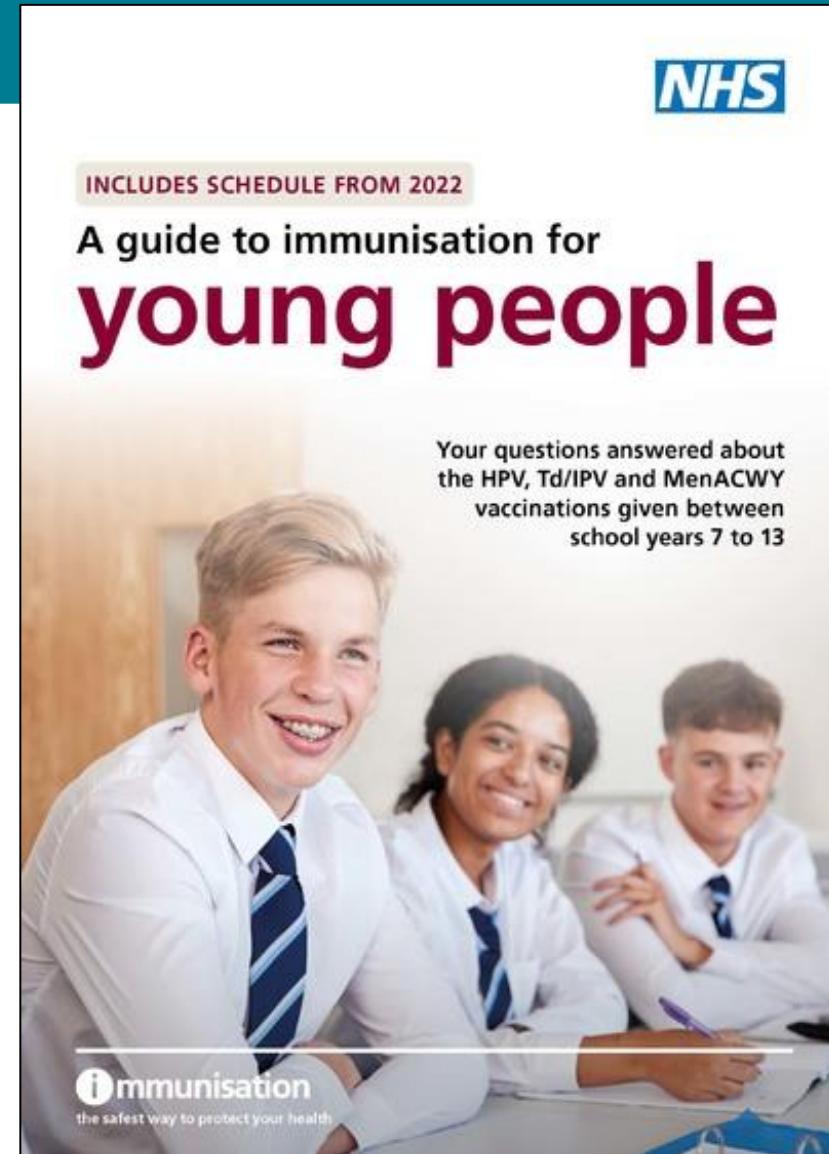
- [Primary school poster](#)
- [Nursery poster](#)
- [Secondary school poster](#)



# Secondary schools: Immunisations guide for young people

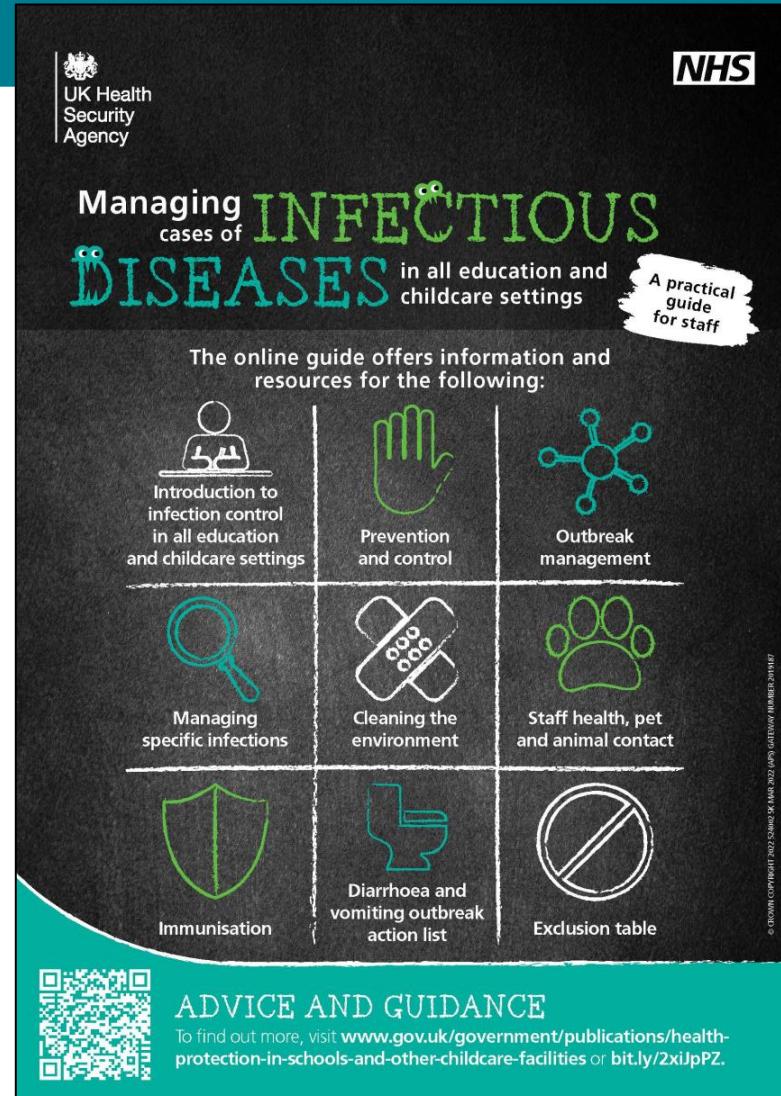
This leaflet contains information on:

- the tetanus, diphtheria and polio vaccine
- **reminder to check that the young person has had 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine**
- human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for boys and girls
- meningococcal A, C, W, Y (MenACWY) vaccination, signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia
- the routine and selective immunisation schedule
- Paper copies of the leaflet are available to order for free. Product code: [C22YPEN](#)



# Managing infections in schools and childcare settings posters – order your copies now

- Should be displayed in schools and education settings.
- Signposts to the link and QR code link to the [online guidance](#) Please bookmark this link in your browser.
- Printed copies of this poster are available free to order using product code [524002](#).



# Managing infections in schools and childcare settings posters – download and print your copy now

- Signposts to the link and QR code link to the online guidance
- This version is download only. You can order free copies of the paper version on [slide 26](#).



# How long should I keep my child off school - infectious disease symptom poster

- Download and print at A3 for the poster, or select A4 for a handout for parents or send as an attachment in an email to parents at the beginning of term or if there is a case of infectious disease that you have been notified about.
- Download here or search on the health publications website using product code: [MISC21EN](#)

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

## Should I keep my **child off school?**



**Yes**

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

**No**

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

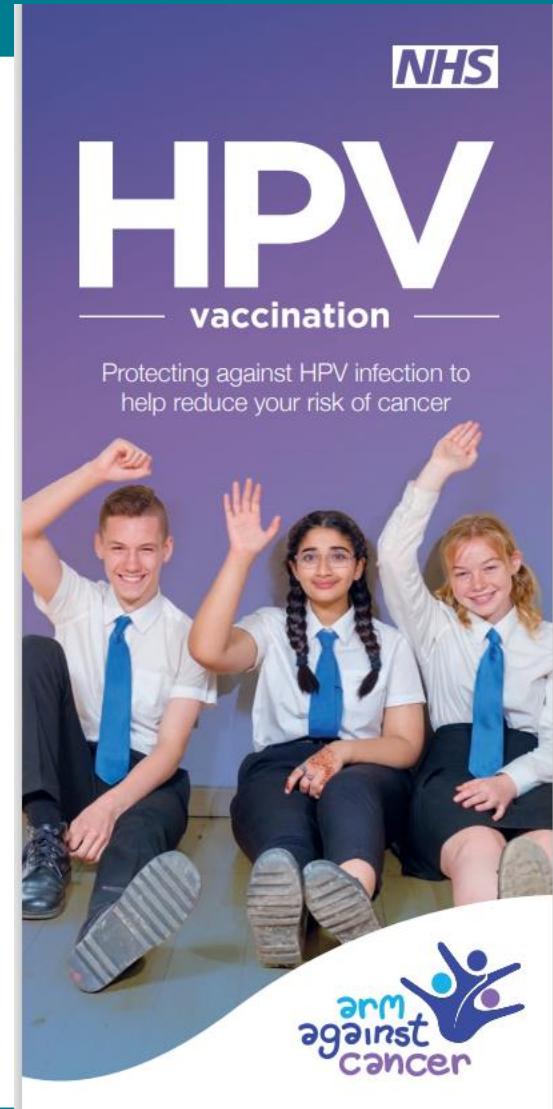
© Crown copyright 2022. Product code: MISC21EN. SK-AFH-22-025. Gathering number: 20211551

 SCAN ME

**Advice and guidance**  
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

# HPV programme leaflet and EDUCATE teaching resources

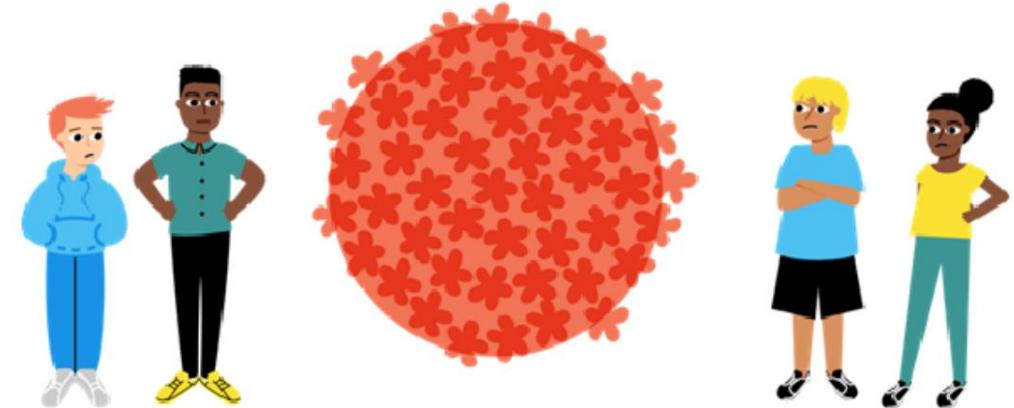
- [HPV vaccine leaflet](#)
- [HPV teaching resource: EDUCATE](#)



University of Bristol: EDUCATE

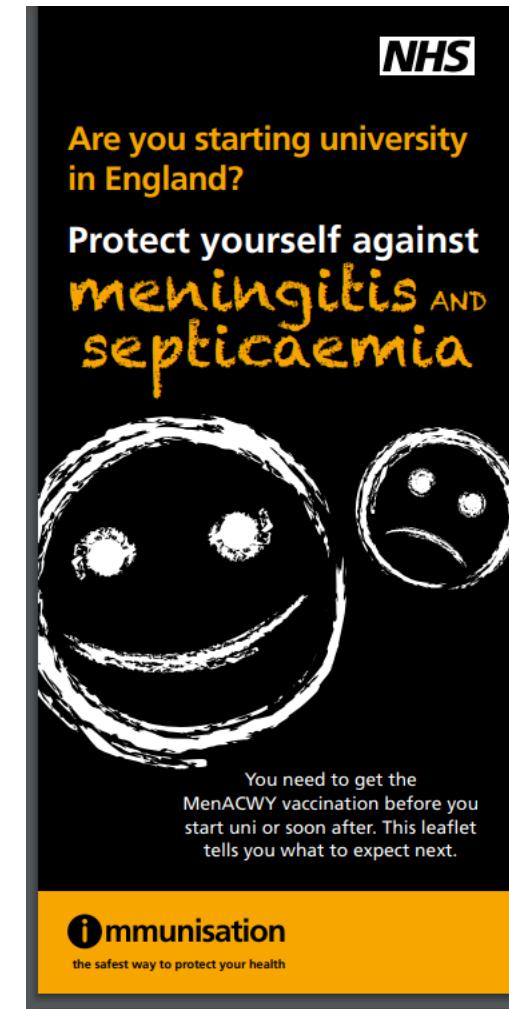
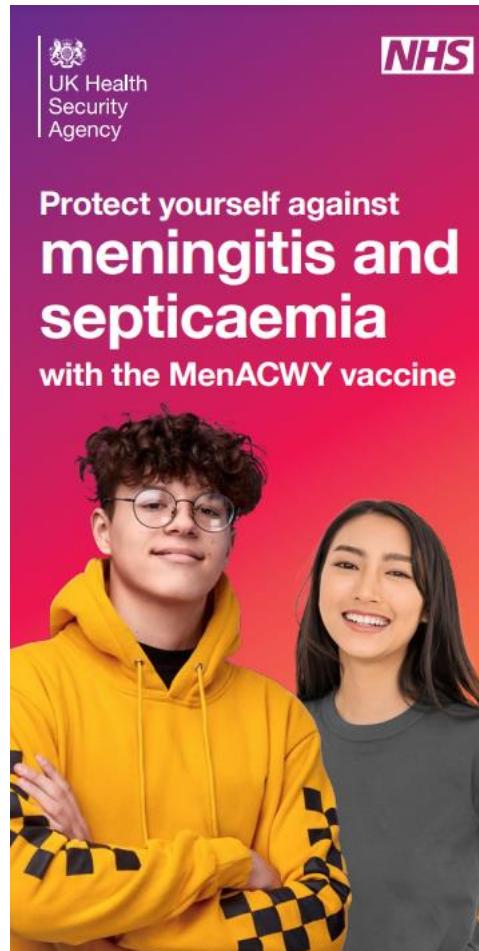
KS3

# HPV



# MenACWY programme

- [MenACWY information for young people \(leaflet fr schools\)](#)
- [MenACWY leaflet for Uni students](#)



# Vaccine communication kit for Universities

- [MMR, MenACWY and coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine comms toolkit for universities](#)



**Vaccine communications toolkit for universities and other higher education settings**

Helping to protect students from vaccine preventable infectious diseases



# Where to find the MMR publications to order – free service for all education settings



UK Health Security Agency

NHS

Home Order Publications View Campaigns Find Digital Assets Quiz

About this site

On this website you can order and download publications created by The Department for Health and Social Care Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

The [Green Book](#) has the latest information on vaccines and vaccination procedures, for vaccine preventable infections. The newsletter that features all our new publications, Green Book chapter updates and the latest developments in vaccination can be viewed [here](#) and [register](#) to receive the newsletter

## Health Publications

Flu, Maternal Vaccination, MMR/Measles, Shingles, Hepatitis, Flu, Meningitis, Schools, COVID-19, vaccination programme, universal programme, TB/BCG

## Health publications website

Free service  
Deliveries 3-5 working days  
Short link:  
<https://qrco.de/healthpubs>



Resources to support health and social care workers delivering the routine vaccinations

# Vaccine Update – Immunisation bulletin

**Vaccine Update**  
Issue 326 • April 2022

**Vaccine Update**  
COVID-19 special • Issue 330 June 2022

**Vaccine Update**  
Issue 324 • November 2021

**Vaccine Update**  
Issue 327 • May 2022

**Vaccine Update**  
Issue 328 • May 2022

CQC endorsed – ‘registering and reading Vaccine update is one of the indicators of best practice’  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update>

**Audience:**  
Screening and immunisation teams, clinics, GP practices, practice nurses, midwives, student nurses, health professionals

One stop shop for policy, supply or vaccine programme implementation including the training, guidance documents, examples of best practice, implementation guidance and patient facing resources to promote the campaign.

Register for the free bulletin here: [Sign up to receive the Vaccine update newsletter](#).

# Annex

Resources for the  
children's flu  
programme

# Weblinks

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme> (resources on .gov.uk)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools> (schools resources)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-for-early-years-settings-including-child-minders>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-invitation-letter-template-for-children-aged-2-3-and-4-years>
- <https://campaignresources.dhsc.gov.uk> (for marketing resources on the Campaign Resource Centre).
- [www.nhs.uk/flujab](http://www.nhs.uk/flujab) (NHS website)
- [www.healthpublications.gov.uk](http://www.healthpublications.gov.uk) (Health publications ordering)

# Vaccine update – Flu special 2023/24



**Vaccine update: issue 342, September 2023, flu special edition**

Subscribe to Vaccine update [here](#).

This is the one-stop shop for everything you need to support the flu immunisation programme in 2023/24.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-342-september-2023-flu-special-edition>

# Resources to support the pre-schoolers flu programme

**NHS**

## Immunising preschool children against **flu**

Information for practitioners working in early years settings, including childminders



**Flu Immunisation**  
Helping to protect children, every winter

**When do the vaccinations need to be given?**  
To be effective, vaccinations need to be given in the autumn or early winter before flu typically starts to circulate. Flu viruses can change year on year. Consequently, vaccines are made each year to provide protection against the flu viruses that are predicted to circulate, and therefore the vaccine needs to be given on an annual basis.

**Can parents refuse to have their child vaccinated?**  
Yes. The vaccination is not mandatory. Parents will need to give their informed consent for the vaccination. The nasal flu vaccine contains a highly processed form of gelatine (derived from pigs). For those who may not accept the use of porcine gelatine in medical products, an alternative injectable vaccine is available. Parents should discuss their options with their nurse or doctor.

**The role of the Early Years Sector**

**What can staff in the early years sector do to support the programme?**  
Staff working in the early years sector can help raise awareness of the programme amongst parents. Resources can be downloaded or ordered for free.

As well as protecting children and the wider community, promoting the flu vaccine promotes a healthy working environment in nurseries and childcare settings by reducing the risk of spread of flu to others including staff.

**Can staff have the vaccine?**  
Not as part of this programme. The nasal flu vaccine used in this programme is not licensed for adults. Some early years providers, however, may choose to provide an injectable vaccine for their staff through their own occupational health services.

Staff with certain medical conditions that put them more at risk of flu, or who are pregnant, are entitled to free flu vaccination (injectable vaccine) through the NHS. Eligible staff should contact their GP practice. Some local pharmacies also provide this service.

For more information see [www.nhs.uk/flujab](http://www.nhs.uk/flujab)

**Resources**

UKHSA has produced the following resources which can be downloaded or ordered for free from [www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters)

**Protecting your child against flu leaflet**  
This provides information for parents and carers on the flu vaccine, including how it works and contraindications.

**Five reasons to vaccinate your child against flu poster**  
This sets out key messages for parents about the flu vaccine.

**flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child**



1. Protect your child  
The vaccine will help protect your child from catching flu, as well as themselves and protect others around them.

2. Protect your family and friends  
If you catch flu, you may pass it on to your vulnerable friends and family.

3. No injection needed  
It's quick and painless, and it only takes a few seconds.

4. It's better than having the flu  
The vaccine will help protect against the flu, which is a serious illness for children, especially if they have an underlying condition.

5. Avoid costs  
If you catch the flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare.

For more information visit: [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

## Template letters for pre-schoolers

[Provider letterhead plus NHS logo]

Template letter for children aged 2 and 3 years old

[GP Surgery]  
[First address line]  
[Second address line]  
[Town/city]  
[County Postcode]

T [000 000 0000]

[Date]

Dear [Name]

«Insert child's name»'s annual flu vaccination is now due

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Children under the age of 5 years have the highest rate of hospital admissions due to flu.

Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu.

Please phone [insert number] to book an appointment for [insert child's name]'s flu vaccination.

The vaccination is free of charge. Your child will be assessed to confirm the most suitable vaccine when you come to the practice. For most children it is given as a nasal spray which is a quick and painless spray up the nose.

We look forward to seeing «Insert child's first name» soon.

Yours sincerely,

[GP/Practice Nurse/Practice Manager name]

[Position/title]

For more information visit: [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

As a reminder you can use this section to record the date and time of your child's vaccination appointment:

on: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_ am/pm

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-for-early-years-settings-including-child-minders>

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-invitation-letter-template-for-children-aged-2-3-and-4-years](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-invitation-letter-template-for-children-aged-2-3-and-4-years)

## Increasing influenza immunisation uptake among pre-school children

Best practice guidance for general practice



# General Practice best practice guidance: Increasing flu immunisation uptake amongst pre-school children

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccine-best-practice-guide-for-gps](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccine-best-practice-guide-for-gps)

# Primary school resources

 UK Health Security Agency

**NHS**

Flu vaccination 2023 to 2024

## Briefing for primary schools

This leaflet gives details about the flu vaccination programme for primary school aged children including how the programme is delivered and the role schools play.



**Flu Immunisation**  
Helping to protect children, every winter

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sfluvaccinationbriefingforprimaryschools2023to2024>

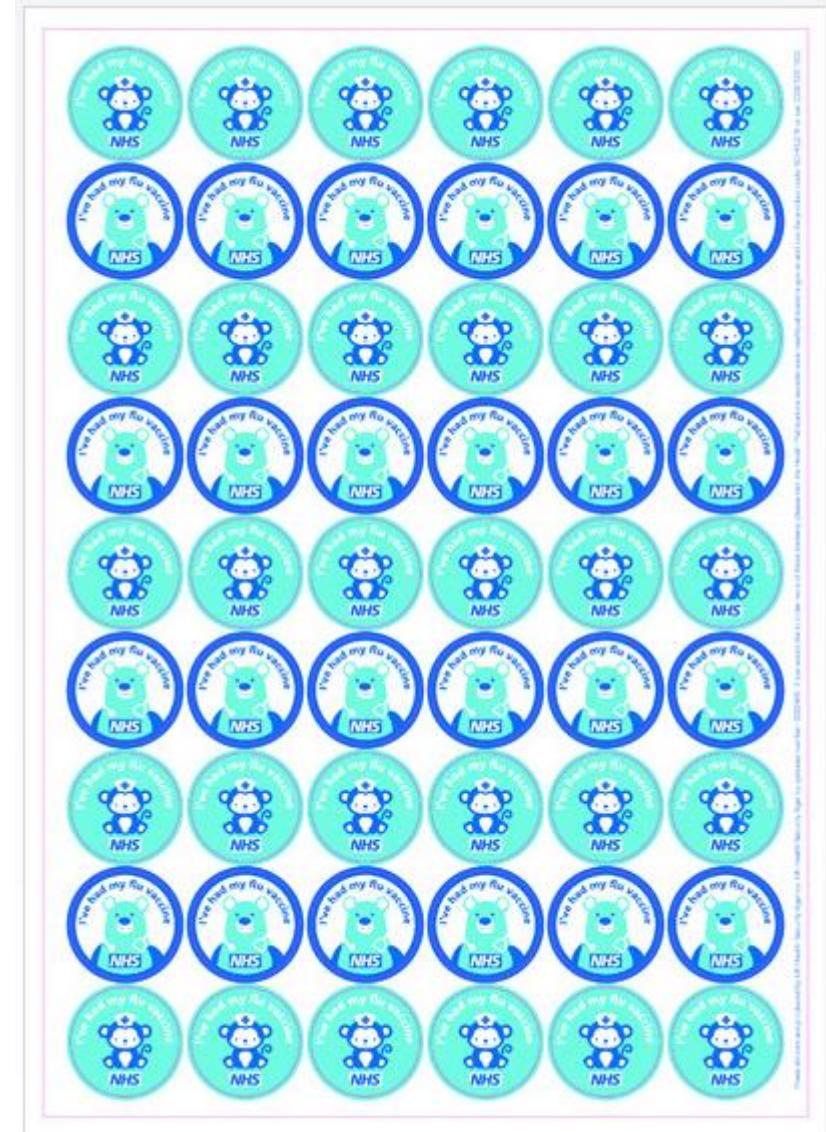


## Protecting your child against flu

Flu immunisation in England



<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sfluvaccinationprimaryschoolsforparents>



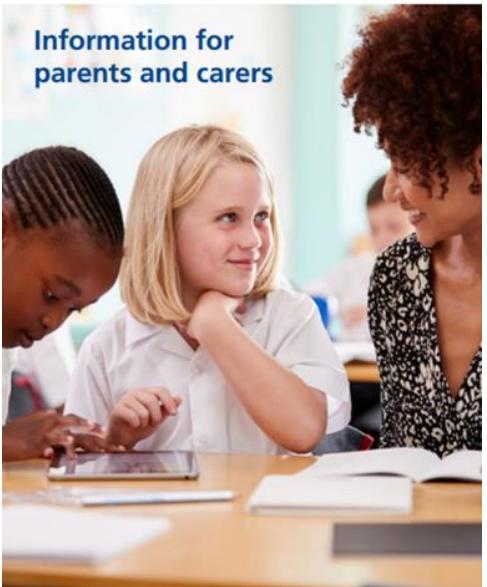
<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Sflustickersforchildrenaged2to11years>

# Primary school resources



## Protecting your child against flu

Flu immunisation in England



Flu immunisation  
Helping to protect children, every winter

Product code:  
2023FCEN

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sflu vaccination primary school for parents>

**Protect your child against flu – information for parents and carers of children in primary school**

Paper copies of this leaflet are available to order for free or download in the following languages:

[English](#), [Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese \(simplified\)](#), [Chinese \(traditional\)](#), [Cantonese](#), [Estonian](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#), [Greek](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Panjabi](#), [Pashto](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#), [Romany](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), [Turkish](#), [Twi](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#) and [Yiddish](#).

An [English large print version](#) is available to order.

A [Braille version](#) of this leaflet is available to order.

A British Sign Language video of this leaflet is available to [view](#).

This British Sign Language video is also available to [download](#).

An [audio version](#) is available to download.

Please note:  
the images on the  
translated and  
alternative  
versions differs to  
the English  
version

# | Primary school resources

**NHS**

## flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



- 1. Protect your child**  
The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends**  
Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**  
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**  
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid costs**  
If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

For more information visit [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

**Flu  immunisation**  
Helping to protect children, every winter

© Crown copyright 2021. Product code: 20021011. NHS Health Security Agency gateway number: 202108. If you want to order more copies of this poster, please visit [healthpublications.gov.uk](http://www.healthpublications.gov.uk) or call 0300 123 1022.

### 5 reasons to vaccinate your child against flu poster for primary schools and pre-schools

This poster is available free to order in the following languages:

English, Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Brazilian, Portuguese, Bulgarian, Chinese, Estonian, Farsi, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Latvian, Lithuanian, Punjabi, Polish, Romanian, Romany, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Turkish, Twi, Ukrainian, Urdu and Yiddish.

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sflu5reasonstovaccinateyourchildposter011years>

# | c) Secondary school resources

 **UK Health Security Agency**

**NHS**

Adolescent vaccination programme  
**Briefing for secondary schools**

This leaflet explains the different adolescent NHS vaccination programmes delivered to children in secondary schools and the important role that schools play in the delivery of these programmes.



**immunisation**  
the safest way to protect your health.

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Sadolescentvaccinationprogrammebriefingforsecondaryschools>

 **UK Health Security Agency**

**NHS**

**Protect yourself against flu**

**Flu immunisation in England**

Information for those in secondary school



**Flu  immunisation**  
Helping to protect you against flu

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sprotectyourselffromflusecondaryschoolenglish>

**NHS**

# **flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine**

- 1. Protect yourself**  
The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect your family and friends**  
Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**  
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**  
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid lost opportunities**  
If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

For more information visit [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](https://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

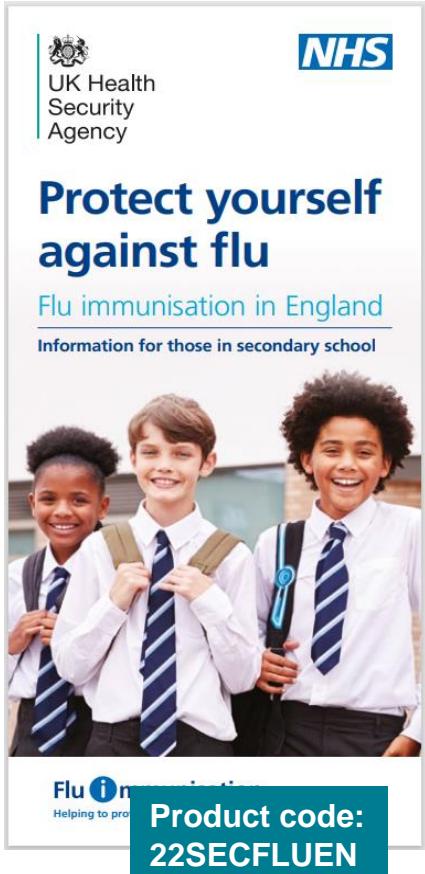
**Flu  immunisation**  
Helping to protect you against flu

© Crown copyright 2021. Product code: 280/2511. UK visa gateway number: 2021109. If you want to order more copies of this poster, please visit [healthpublications.gov.uk/home.html](https://healthpublications.gov.uk/home.html) or call 0300 123 1902.

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sflu5reasonstovaccinateyourchildposter117years>



# | Secondary school resources



Paper copies of this leaflet are available to order for free or download in the following languages:

[English](#), [Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese \(simplified\)](#), [Chinese \(traditional\)](#), [Cantonese](#), [Estonian](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#), [Greek](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Italian](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Panjabi](#), [Pashto](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#), [Romany](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Turkish](#), [Twi](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#), [Yiddish](#) and [Yoruba](#).

A [Braille version](#) of this leaflet is available to order.

An [audio version](#) is available to download.

A British Sign Language video of this leaflet is available to [download](#).

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sprotectyourselffromflusecondaryschoolenglish>

# Secondary school resources

**NHS**

## flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

- 1. Protect yourself**  
The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect your family and friends**  
Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**  
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**  
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid lost opportunities**  
If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

For more information visit [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

**Flu  immunisation**  
Helping to protect you against flu

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**Product code:**  
**2901251F1**

### 5 reasons to vaccinate your child against flu poster for secondary schools

[English](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Albanian](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Arabic](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Bengali](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Brazilian](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools)  
[Portuguese](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Bulgarian](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Chinese](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Estonian](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Farsi](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Greek](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Gujarati](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools)  
[Hindi](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Latvian](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Lithuanian](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Panjabi](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Polish](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Romanian](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Romany](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools),  
[Russian](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Somali](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Spanish](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Turkish](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Twi](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Ukrainian](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Urdu](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools), [Yiddish](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools).

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools)

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sflu5reasonstovaccinateyourchildposters1117years>

# Template invitation letters

[Provider letterhead plus NHS logo]

Template letter for children aged two and three years old

[GP Surgery] T [000 000 0000]  
[First address line]  
[Second address line]  
[Town/city]  
[County Postcode]

[Date]

Dear [Name]

«Insert child's name»'s annual flu vaccination is now due

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Children under the age of five years have the highest rate of hospital admissions due to flu.

Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu. There may be a rebound in flu levels this coming winter following low levels in the last two years as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

Please phone [insert number] to book an appointment for [insert child's name]'s flu vaccination.

The vaccination is free of charge. Your child will be assessed to confirm the most suitable vaccine when you come to the practice. For most children it is given as a nasal spray which is a quick and painless spray up the nose.

We look forward to seeing «Insert child's first name» soon.

Yours sincerely,

[GP/Practice Nurse/Practice Manager name]  
[Position/title]

For more information visit: [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

---

As a reminder you can use this section to record the date and time of your child's vaccination appointment:

on: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_ am/pm  
Date Time

[Provider letterhead plus NHS logo]

TEMPLATE LETTER FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

[Date]

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's flu vaccination is now due.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. There may be a rebound in flu levels this coming winter following low levels in the past 2 years as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

Please complete the enclosed consent form (one for each child) and return to the school [by/ within] [INSERT DATE or TIME FRAME] to ensure your child receives their vaccination.

The vaccination is free and is a quick, simple and painless spray up the nose. Even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu can vary each winter so it is recommended to have it again this year or they won't be protected.

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme is enclosed and includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

If you have any queries, please contact the health care team on [INSERT NUMBER].

Yours sincerely,

[Signed by provider]

If your child becomes wheezy, has a bad attack of asthma, or has started oral steroids for their asthma after you return this form, please contact the healthcare team on [phone number].

If you decide you do not want to vaccinate your child against flu, please return the consent form giving the reason. This will help us plan and improve the service.

For further information see: [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

# Flu vaccination consent form (combined form for nasal spray and injectable vaccine)



## Flu vaccination consent form

Flu can be very unpleasant for children and sometimes they end up in hospital. Vaccination helps protect your child against flu and reduces the chance of them catching it from others. Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is quick and easy to administer and often the best protection for children.

Please complete the questions below. A small number of children cannot have the nasal spray because of medical conditions or treatments. They can be offered protection through an injected vaccine instead.

The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine) to keep the vaccine stable. If you do not accept medicines or vaccines that contain porcine gelatine, a flu vaccine injection is available that contains no gelatine. Please indicate on the form if you wish your child to have this alternative.

The actual aged immunisation loan can answer any questions you have. More information is available in leaflets found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-faqs-and-posters](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-faqs-and-posters) and from [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu).

Child's full name (first name and surname)	Date of birth	Ethnicity
		<input type="checkbox"/> White British <input type="checkbox"/> Other white background <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic background <input type="checkbox"/> Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, other Asian background) <input type="checkbox"/> Black, African/Caribbean, other black background <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/Traveler <input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic background (specify)
Home address	GP name and address	
Postcode		
Daytime contact telephone number for parent/carer	NHS number (if known)	
School	Year group/grade	

### Medical information (Please answer all questions)

- Has your child already had a flu vaccination this season since 1 September 2022?  Yes  No
- Does your child have a disease or treatment that severely affects their immune system? (e.g. treatment for leukaemia, high dose steroids)  Yes  No
- Is anyone in your family currently having treatment that very severely affects their immune system? (e.g. they have just had a bone marrow transplant)  Yes  No
- Has your child had any of the following:
  - a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of flu vaccine
  - confirmed severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine such as egg, neomycin/gentamycin or polysorbate 80? Yes  No
- Is your child receiving salicylate therapy? (i.e. aspirin)  Yes  No
- Has your child been diagnosed with asthma? If your child has asthma:
  - Has your child taken steroid tablets because of their asthma within the past two weeks?  Yes  No
  - Has your child ever been admitted to intensive care because of their asthma? If your child has become wheezy, had an asthma attack or had to increase their use of reliever inhaler in the 3 days before vaccination is scheduled, please let the immunisation team know, either before, or on the day of vaccination.
- Are there any other medical conditions or recently planned medical treatment that the immunisation team should be aware of?  Yes  No
- If you answered Yes to any of the above questions, please give details

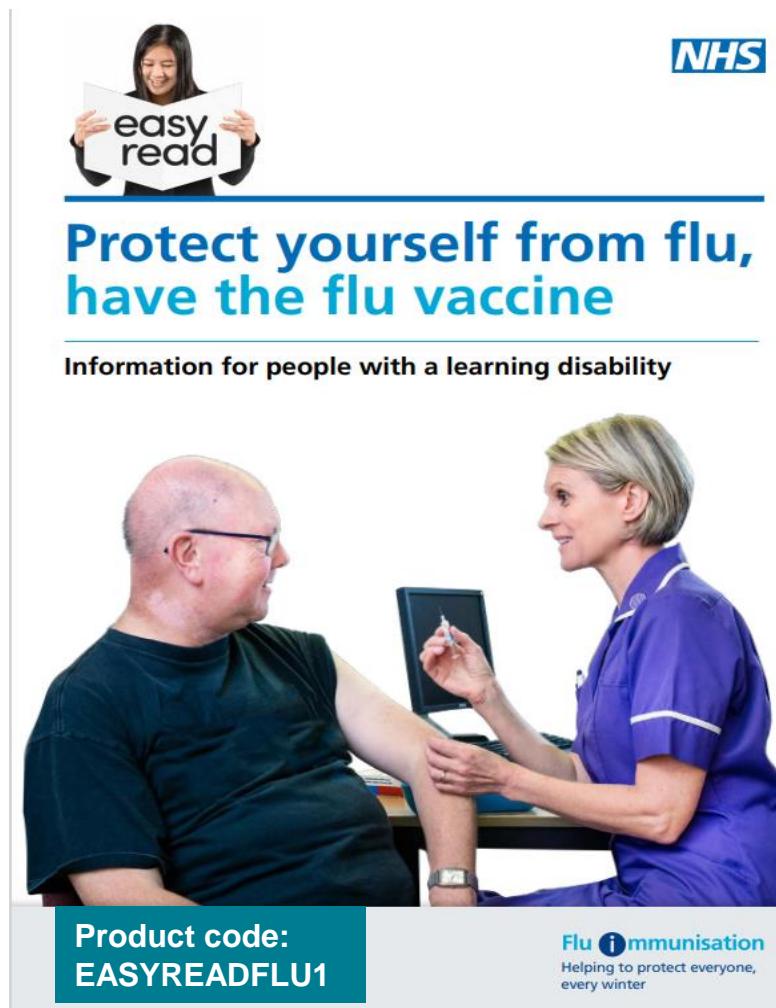
<b>Consent for flu vaccination</b> (Please complete one box only)					
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I want my child to receive the flu nasal spray vaccination	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I want my child to have the alternative flu vaccine injection	<input type="checkbox"/> NO, I do not want my child to receive any flu vaccine			
<p>If you have responded "yes" to any of the questions about medical conditions:</p> <p>I agree that my child cannot have the nasal spray, they can be given a flu vaccine injection instead.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>					
<p>If you have responded "yes", it would be helpful to understand why:</p> <p>If you do not want your child to have the flu vaccine, it would be helpful to understand why:</p>					
<p>Name Parent/Guardian</p> <p>Signature</p> <p>Date</p> <p>Any other comments</p>					
Thank you for completing this form. Please return it to the school as soon as possible.					
OFFICE USE ONLY					
Pre-vaccination suitability assessment for influenza vaccine		Eligibility for IAV assessment on day of vaccination			
Child suitable for IAV? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Heavy nasal congestion on the day of vaccination? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If IAV not suitable, is child suitable for LAIV? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		If the child has asthma, has the prescribed required rescue oral steroids in the past 14 days? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<p>Additional information</p> <p>Assessment completed by (name, designation and signature)</p>					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>If the parent/carer reported the child being wheezy, having an asthma attack or needing more relief inhaler over the past three days? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Child eligible for LAIV? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, give details:</p>					
<p>Date</p>					
VACCINE DETAILS					
Date	Time	Type of vaccine (please circle)	Site of injection (if applicable) (please circle)	Batch number	Expiry date
		LAIV	IM	L arm	R arm
ADMINISTERED BY					
Name	Designation	Signature			
Site/Clinic	Date:				

1 Children with an acute exacerbation of symptoms including increased wheezing, under medical assessment, in the previous 72 hours should be offered inhaled vaccine as soon as they are able to tolerate it.

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To order more copies of this leaflet please go to Health Publications website and use Product code: 2020PCN

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools)

# Easy read for those with a learning disability



**NHS**

**Protect yourself from flu, have the flu vaccine**

Information for people with a learning disability

**Product code: EASYREADFLU1**

**Flu *i*mmunisation**  
Helping to protect everyone, every winter

A woman in blue scrubs is shown giving a flu vaccine to a man in a dark t-shirt. The man is smiling and looking at the nurse. The nurse is holding a small electronic device.

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sprotectyourselffromflueeasyreadleaflet>



**NHS**

## Get your free flu jab

Some people with a learning disability can get very ill if they get flu.

The best way to avoid flu is to get a free flu jab.

You can have the flu jab at your GP surgery.

Or you can have the flu jab at a pharmacy.

If you are scared of needles, tell the nurse. You may be able to have the vaccine as a nose spray instead.

**Product code: EASYREADFLU2**

**Flu *i*mmunisation**  
Helping to protect everyone, at every age

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sprotectyourselffromflueeasyreadposter>

# Flu vaccination films for people with a learning disability and autistic people and their family or carers

## Flu vaccination video for people with a learning disability



## Flu vaccinations for carers of people with a learning disability



[www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability)

YouTube links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqGSm0jaF9A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ9QdwUiFg>

## Use of reasonable adjustments to reduce health inequalities video



## How reasonable adjustments make a big difference to health and wellbeing video



[www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/improving-health/reasonable-adjustments/](https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/improving-health/reasonable-adjustments/)

# | Simple text resources for those with low literacy



<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sfluvacinationsimpletextadultleaflet-3922>

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<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Sallaboutfluandvaccinationsimpletextforchildren>

# British Islamic Medical Association Flu Resources

The British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA) have produced 2 resources which explain the benefits of flu vaccination, the Islamic position on taking up the vaccine, and how to weigh up whether your children should have the nasal spray vaccine given the porcine gelatine content and conflict with a halal diet. BIMA are happy to be contacted for any local queries on [info@britishima.org](mailto:info@britishima.org) and you can download these resources from: <https://britishima.org/guide/flu-vaccines-update-23/>

**OPERATION VACCINATION**  
www.operationvaccination.com

**BRITISH ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

## SHOULD MY CHILD TAKE FLUENZ?

2023/24

A flu vaccine can reduce the risk of you and your child getting sick by 30-60%, and prevent children being hospitalised from flu. It will also reduce the chance of vulnerable people, such as grandparents or those with long term health conditions, getting flu from your child.

**VACCINATION IS THE BEST DEFENCE WE HAVE AGAINST A VIRUS WHICH CAUSES SEVERE ILLNESS AND DEATHS EVERY YEAR**

**THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF VACCINES IN THE UK THAT PROTECT AGAINST FLU**

**1. NASAL SPRAY VACCINE (FLUENZ TETRA):** This is a live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) which will be offered to all children aged 2-3 years, all primary school children, and some secondary school children (12-17 years old). FluENZ nasal spray vaccine protects against four flu virus strains and contains porcine (pork) gelatine.

Studies have shown that LAIV (nasal spray vaccine) works better than an IIV (injection). It is thought to offer longer and better protection against mismatched strains, such as when the flu vaccine doesn't exactly cover the flu virus strains that are going around that year.

As children with long-term health conditions (such as diabetes and heart problems) are at higher risk from getting very sick with flu, your doctor may recommend that they get the LAIV (nasal spray), since it is thought to offer better protection.

**Children whose parents refuse LAIV (nasal spray vaccine) due to the porcine gelatine content can request IIV (injectable vaccine) as an alternative.**

Please do not delay this decision as it is important to protect the health of your child if they are in the high risk category.

#OperationVaccination

[www.operationvaccination.com](https://www.operationvaccination.com)

[www.britishima.org](https://www.britishima.org)

**OPERATION VACCINATION**  
www.operationvaccination.com

**BRITISH ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

## FLU VACCINATION GUIDANCE

2023/24

**Why is it beneficial to get vaccinated?**

1. You will help **protect yourself** from the possible severe complications which can be caused by flu. As social contact levels continue to return to pre-pandemic norms there could be a resurgence in influenza activity this winter (as was seen last winter).
2. Being vaccinated means you can reduce the pressures on health care services by lowering GP and A&E attendances and by **reducing hospital admissions**.
3. Reduce the chance of **flu outbreaks** and protect the most vulnerable who are at high risk.

**What does Islam say?**

Islam promotes the idea that the rights upon us extend to the people around us. The Prophetic teachings encourage us to be kind and make us aware that we should consider the implications of our actions. If you are young and healthy, you may not be severely affected by the flu **but you could pass it on to someone who is vulnerable**.

When it comes to choosing whether or not to vaccinate, it is important that we are empowered by the altruistic values our faith gifts us to make an informed and considerate choice.

**Not vaccinating can put yourself, your children, and others at risk.**

**Do all flu vaccines contain pork gelatine?**

No, there are two main types of flu vaccine:

1. The injectable vaccine **DOES NOT** contain porcine (pork) derived product and **is also offered to adults**.
2. The nasal spray vaccine (FluENZ Tetra) offered to children **DOES** contain porcine derived product.

**Can Muslim parents choose which vaccine their child gets?**

Yes, parents can choose to have the same injectable flu vaccine that is given to adults for their children, on the basis of religious objection. When asked to sign a consent form, let your vaccination service know your choice is because of the porcine gelatine in the nasal spray vaccine FluENZ. The more we get vaccinated, the more we can lobby for medical products compatible with a halal diet.

Most children are offered the nasal spray vaccine which is easier to administer and is considered better at preventing the spread of flu. Ask your doctor for further details so your child receives the most suitable vaccine.

**Please consult a trusted scholar regarding permissibility as Islamic scholarly opinions differ.**

**Where can I get a flu vaccine?**

The flu vaccine should be available in schools, GP surgeries, pharmacies and other venues your local health team may advertise. You may be offered a flu vaccine to protect you even if you have never had one before. Don't miss out.

#OperationVaccination

[www.operationvaccination.com](https://www.operationvaccination.com)

[www.britishima.org](https://www.britishima.org)