

Which flu vaccine should children have?

There are two types of flu vaccine available for children in 2018/19 – the ‘live’ nasal spray vaccine and the inactivated injected flu vaccine. This chart indicates which vaccine children should get.

What is the child's age?

under 6 months of age

They are too young to have the flu vaccine (this is why it's important that expectant mothers have a flu vaccination – they can have it 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 inactivated injected flu vaccine. Children aged up to 9 years who have never had a flu vaccination will need two doses four weeks apart

The child is not eligible for the flu vaccine

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

4 to 9 years old in reception class and in school years 1-5

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

10 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? The child is not eligible for the flu vaccine

They should have the inactivated injected flu vaccine. Children aged up to 9 years who have never had a flu vaccination will need two doses four weeks apart

Yes

No

They should have the nasal spray vaccine. At-risk children aged up to 9 years who have never had a flu vaccination will need two doses four weeks apart



Notes.

- Those aged two and three years old on 31 August 2018 (but not four years) are eligible for flu vaccination in general practice.
- Children in reception class and school years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (those aged 4-9 on 31 August 2018) are eligible for flu vaccination in school.
- At-risk children include those who have a long-term health conditions such as asthma, and other respiratory diseases, liver, kidney and neurological conditions including learning disabilities, even if well managed.
- The nasal spray vaccine is a ‘live’ vaccine but the viruses in it have been weakened so they can not cause flu. It is not suitable for all children, including those who are severely asthmatic or immunocompromised, or are on salicylate therapy. Children with egg allergy can have the nasal vaccine. However, parents whose children have a history of severe egg allergy with anaphylaxis should seek specialist advice.
- The vaccine will continue to be offered to all primary school-aged children in former pilot areas.