

## **Children's flu vaccine**

*The children's flu vaccine is safe, effective and free. It's offered every year as a nasal spray to children to help protect them against flu.*

*The flu vaccination provides important protection to individual children and helps to reduce the spread of flu to their friends, families and the wider community, protecting younger siblings, grandparents and others who are at increased risk of becoming seriously ill from flu.*

### **Nasal FLU vaccine** (Fluenz Tetra - live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV))

- The vaccine is given as a spray squirted up each nostril. It's quick and painless.
- The vaccine will still work even if your child gets a runny nose, sneezes or blows their nose.
- The Nasal Flu vaccine gives children the best protection against flu.
- It may take around 2 weeks for the flu vaccine to work.
- Any children who catch flu after vaccination are less likely to be seriously ill or be admitted to hospital.

### **FLU Injection vaccine** (Seqirus - inactivated flu vaccine (QIVc))

This year, Birchills Health Centre is pleased to offer alternative Flu vaccine Injection for children whose parents decline the Nasal FLU spray due to its porcine gelatine content.

### **Which Vaccine to choose**

It is very important to vaccinate your child and choosing the right vaccine for them is a personal choice. Public Health England still recommends that you choose the Nasal Flu over the injection because it;

- is more effective
- provides protection for longer
- may offer protection against slightly different types of flu virus
- is easier to give and more comfortable to have

*PHE would like to inform the Muslim communities of the UK of the issues surrounding the vaccine so that you can make an informed decision about whether or not it is acceptable for your child.*

***Please watch this short clip about the Nasal FLU vaccination for more information;***

***<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/FikMH27Q19c>***

## Group A Strep infections

Getting flu and other viral infections can increase the risk of invasive Group A Strep infection in the following weeks. Invasive Group A Strep infections increased during the 2009-10 flu pandemic. The flu vaccine reduces the risk of having flu and group A Strep infections at the same time therefore it reduces the chance of developing invasive Group A Strep. We strongly recommend children who are eligible get a flu vaccine – it's the best way to protect them from serious illness. The flu vaccine for children has an excellent safety record, this includes the nasal spray given to school aged children and pre-schoolers, which has been given to millions of children in the UK and worldwide."

### Background:

- There is no current evidence to suggest that the nasal spray flu vaccine given to children causes iGAS
- We know that children can become infected with invasive group A Streptococcal (iGAS) disease and influenza at the same time, causing a very severe illness. Flu and other viruses may increase the risk of iGAS, therefore we reinforce the recommendation that children who are eligible for influenza vaccination take up the offer.
- iGAS infections increased in England during the 2009-10 influenza pandemic.
- The influenza vaccines given to children have excellent safety records. This includes the nasal spray flu vaccine given to school-aged children and pre-schoolers, which has been given to millions of children in the UK and worldwide. The flu vaccination programme in England first used nasal spray vaccines in children aged 2 and 3 years and in primary schools in pilot areas in 2013 before being rolled out incrementally to older age groups over the past nine years.
- Nasal flu vaccines prevent flu in children who are vaccinated and those around them too.
- The nasal flu vaccine will help prevent influenza which can cause very severe infection.
- The nasal influenza vaccine also therefore reduces the risk of coinfection of influenza and Group A Streptococcal infections, and in turn the potential development of iGAS infections.

**For an APPOINTMENT, reply YES and we  
will call you to book a convenient time or  
please call the surgery**