

A university teaching and research-active Trust
Bridge Park Plaza
Bridge Park Road
Thurmaston
Leicester
LE4 8PQ
www.leicspart.nhs.uk

December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Second COVID-19 dose for 12-15-year-olds

In line with government guidelines, we will be revisiting your child's school to offer them the chance to have their second COVID-19 vaccination – or the chance to have their first COVID-19 jab if they haven't already got the protection of the vaccine.

For those children eligible for a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, this will help to bolster their protection, particularly in light of the highly contagious Omicron variant of the virus.

Our next visit will also provide those young people who were not vaccinated on our last visit, because they may have been absent on the day, not yet 12 years old or because they decided not have the vaccine at the time, with a new opportunity to have the vaccine.

You will shortly receive a letter with a link to our online consent form, as well as a contact number if you need support in completing the form.

Please note that some secondary schools where students have not yet had the flu vaccine will be offered the chance to get both a COVID-19 vaccine and flu on the same day.

More information about the vaccine

The vaccine used will be Pfizer-BioNTech, which is administered via a quick injection in the top of the arm.

Healthy children who have tested positive for COVID-19 need to wait 12 weeks before they can have the vaccine. Second doses also have to be 12 weeks from the young person's initial first dose.

If a young person is anxious about having the vaccine because they're afraid of needles, please contact the service, speak to a school nurse or a vaccinator on the day and they will be able to help. We can do things such as ensure the person is vaccinated quickly or in a separate area. More tips on needle phobia can be found on the LPT website: <https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/overcoming-your-fear-of-needlesv1.pdf>

What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short term, and not everyone gets them. The administration of two vaccines at the same time might make side-effects more likely, but these side-effects are likely to be mild.

Some of the most common side effects of the COVID-19 include:

- having a painful, heavy feeling and tenderness in the arm where you had your injection. This tends to be worst around 1 to 2 days after the vaccination
- feeling tired
- headache
- general aches, or mild flu like symptoms

Is it safe for my child to have the flu and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time?

Yes it is. National advice has deemed it both safe and effective to administer both vaccines together. The Joint Committee for Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) has outlined that it is preferable to offer the COVID-19 vaccine together with the flu to ensure the protection is delivered as quickly as possible, rather than to delay – and this advice includes school vaccination programmes. It is very common to administer multiple vaccines at once and neither vaccine will affect the effectiveness of the other.

Consent

Once you receive your consent letter and link to the online form, please fill it out as quickly as possible.

We will not vaccinate any child who does not have consent for each vaccine being given.

Even if you have filled out a consent form before for the COVID-19 vaccine, please do so again if you want your child to have a second dose. We need to regain consent for each vaccine we give.

In addition, please note that we will always take the latest parental consent decision for each child – even if it is different to one which you gave originally. For example, if you declined to consent to the vaccine previously, but now consent to your child having it on the next visit, we will always take the latest consent decision as the one we act upon.

If you have any questions about consent, please contact the school age immunisation team on: communityimmunisations.service@nhs.net

Where else can my child get the vaccine

Having a first or second dose COVID-19 vaccine does not have to take place at school.

12-15-year-olds can book an appointment to have the vaccine online at various clinics in hospitals, vaccination centres, pop-up venues and sometimes GP surgeries or pharmacies. Some walk-in clinics will also vaccinate people in this age group. However, a parent or guardian will need to attend appointments with their child to provide consent.

To find what is available closest to you, you can either:

- visit the NHS website for walk-ins: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/>
- view the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) #GetVaxxed website, with a full list of walk-ins in the area: <https://www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/my-health/coronavirus-advice/coronavirus-vaccine/>
- visit the NHS National Booking System: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>
- Call the LLR central booking team on 0116 497 5700 who can help you to book an appointment.

More information about COVID-19

Gov.uk guidance for parents information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents>

A Leicestershire COVID-19 vaccine guide for parents, is available to download:

<https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/COVID-19-12-15-vaccine-parent-information-pack-1.pdf>

Information for young people is available on the Health for Teens website:

<https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/health/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination-information/?location=Leicester%2C+Leicestershire+and+Rutland>

View our new animation about the COVID-19 vaccine for young people to answer your FAQs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNeEMgf7zSA>

More information about Flu

More information about the flu vaccine can be found on the Health for Teens website:

<https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/health/flu/flu-just-the-facts/> and on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>

Thank you once again for your continued support for this programme.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Thompson
Director of FYPC and LD Services
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust

September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Seasonal flu vaccination programme

As part of the national vaccination programme, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust's Community Immunisation Service would like to offer the opportunity to protect children and young people against seasonal flu (influenza) this winter.

The flu vaccination programme is a high priority within public health policy every year. However, in light of the risk of flu and Covid-19 co-circulating this winter, the national flu immunisation programme will be absolutely essential to protect children and vulnerable people, including babies and elderly, and supporting the resilience of the health and care system. This offer for flu vaccinations has also been extended to include more young people in secondary school.

Children from reception year to year 11 (born between 1st September 2005 and 31st August 2017) will be offered the nasal flu vaccination in school. Younger children aged 2 and 3 years will be offered the flu vaccination at their GP surgery.

To read information for primary school age children, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/fluprimary>

To read information for secondary school age children, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/flusecondary>

For information about the national vaccination programme, visit:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations

Children with health conditions who normally receive the flu vaccination at their GP surgery can have their vaccination at school. Almost all children will be eligible to have the vaccine as a nasal spray. A very small number of children may be unable to have nasal spray for medical reasons. If this is the case, we will call you to explain why and discuss whether your child is eligible for an injectable vaccine.

Alternative gelatine free flu injection

We recognise that gelatine used in the manufacture of the nasal flu vaccine is not preferable for some parents; therefore, we are also offering a gelatine free injection instead. When making a decision to opt for this, please bear in mind that the gelatine free injection:

- is less effective than the nasal flu vaccine;
- an injection into the muscle could be uncomfortable and daunting. Please consider whether your child or the young person will be able to comply with the injection in school without the presence of a parent. It would be helpful if you could prepare them.

The box below has instructions on how to complete a consent form, including how to opt for the gelatine free flu injection.

TO BE GIVEN THE VACCINATION IN SCHOOL

You can scan this QR code using your smartphone camera to go straight to our website

- Complete a consent form ONLINE by visiting: www.leicsandrutlandimms.co.uk
- Select **Seasonal Flu**
- You will need the code for your school. For **Tudor Grange Samworth Academy, A church of England School** the school code is **LE144479**
- You will receive a confirmation email when the form is submitted.



Top tip: Ensure that the email addresses match and that there are no spaces or punctuation before or after the email address and the school code.

You will need to fully complete the consent form prior to the vaccination session.

You will be informed of the vaccination date by your school. These dates are also available on our website, visit: www.leicspart.nhs.uk/communityimms

We will temporarily close the system 1 working day before the session to allow us to prepare. The system will be reopened soon after the session so you can complete a consent form and further details of an alternative opportunity for vaccination will be shared with you.

If you want to opt for the gelatine free flu injection, please complete the consent form as normal. On the consent declaration page please select “no” and the option will be given.

To inform us of any medical changes or to change your mind about the vaccination, please contact the team.

If you are unable to complete this online, please ring us on 0300 300 0007 to request support. One of our team may need to call you back in order to complete the form.

Following the vaccination, advice and information will be emailed to you and the young person’s NHS health record will be updated.

If the child or young person is absent on the day, an additional opportunity will be made available for the vaccination. **Please note this vaccine will not be routinely offered by your GP unless your child is in an at risk group.**

Covid-19

If your child or a family member they live with is self-isolating or experiencing any of the symptoms listed below on the day of the session then **please do not attend the vaccine appointment.**

- **High temperature – you feel hot to the touch on your chest or back**
- **A new continuous cough – this means you have started coughing repeatedly.**
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you’ve noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.**

We are working closely with your child's school to ensure that all appropriate Covid safety measures are in place to ensure the safe delivery of the vaccine.

We request that young people aged 12 and over comply with the school's policy on the use of face coverings. Our staff will continue to adhere to the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), social distancing and good hand hygiene practices to reduce the risk of transmission.

More information

It would be helpful if you talk to your child about this vaccination to prepare them. We have developed short animated films which explains what flu is and the nasal flu vaccine. The websites are also a wonderful resource on health-related subjects and includes exciting activities and interactive content.

For primary school age children, visit: www.healthforkids.co.uk/staying-healthy/stopping-flu

For secondary school age children, visit: <https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/health/flu/>

We understand some of you may have questions regarding the vaccinations that are available to you children. We will be putting on some Q&A sessions for parents with a panel of health professionals in the coming weeks. Please follow Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust on Facebook, Twitter (@LPTnhs) and Instagram (@lptnhs) for dates and details on joining instructions.

Should you have any questions you can contact the team, by telephone: 0300 300 0007, or by e-mail: communityimmisations.service@nhs.net Calls volumes are high during the period we offer flu vaccinations and you may have to wait at peak times for your call to be answered.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Tim Davies
Consultant Lead
Screening and Immunisation
NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands



Marie Butterworth
Clinical Lead
School Aged Immunisation Service
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust

If you would like to read this letter in another language go to our website

www.leicspart.nhs.uk/communityimms

- Arabic إذا كنت ترغب في قراءة هذه الرسالة بلغة أخرى، قم بزيارة موقعنا على الإنترنت
- Gujarati જો તમે આ પત્ર ગુજરાતીમાં વાંચવા માંગતા હો તો અમારી વેબસાઇટ પર જાઓ
- Polish Jeśli chcesz przeczytać ten list w innym języku, przejdź na naszą stronę.
- Punjabi ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੜ੍ਹਨਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੀ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਜਾਓ
- Somali Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd inaad ku akhrido warqadan luuqad kale, booqo boggayaga internetka
- Urdu اگر آپ اردو میں یہ خط پڑھنا چاہتے ہیں تو ہماری ویب سائٹ پر جائیں۔

NOTES ON COMPLETING THE ONLINE CONSENT FORM

Visit: www.leicsandrutlandimms.co.uk

Select Seasonal Flu by clicking the “Click here” button next to it.

On the next screen, enter and confirm your email address

Enter your school code: LE144479 and click find school. Your school name should appear.

We will temporarily close the system the 1 working day before the session to allow us to prepare. A message will appear asking you to try again after the session and offer you an alternative opportunity for vaccination.

Top tip:

- To find our homepage you can also search online for “Leicester imms”
- Ensure that the email addresses match and that there are no spaces or punctuation before or after the email address and school code.

PART 2: Consent Declaration

Complete this to give consent to the flu vaccination.

The option to select an injectable vaccine only will be given here.

PART 3: Medical History

Complete the questions regarding vaccination history and any support required during vaccination.

THIS FORM MUST ONLY BE COMPLETED BY SOMEONE WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY. Guidance about parental responsibility can be found at: www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities

Mature young people in secondary school may be able to consent for themselves to have this vaccination without your agreement and health professionals will assess their ability to make an informed decision.

Sharing information: After the vaccination at school, a notification will be provided and the information will be added to your child’s NHS health record.

To translate the information on the NHS website into a different language visit: www.nhs.uk/accessibility/health-information-in-other-languages