

THE ANNUAL INFLUENZA NASAL SPRAY VACCINE



FACTS AND INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

This leaflet provides information about the nasal spray vaccine for Influenza (Flu), currently offered at school each autumn to primary school children.

The U.K is the only country to administer this live vaccine in a school environment.

The name of the vaccine is Fluenz Tetra or FluMist. It contains four Genetically Modified (GM) strains of the live influenza virus, including H1N1 (Swine Flu).

This vaccine is designed to build immunity against, and reduce incidences of the Influenza virus. However, due to efficacy and safety concerns, we feel that parents should be fully informed.

Is The Vaccine Effective?

The benefits do not necessarily outweigh the risks;

Public Health England (PHE) found that the Fluenz was just 26.9% effective in children aged 2 to 17 years in the 2017 to 2018 season (18.07.2018).

Is The Vaccine Safe?

Your child should not be offered Fluenz on medical grounds if they:

- are wheezing or suffer from Asthma,
- have a severe allergy to eggs,
- have ever had a life-threatening reaction to influenza vaccinations,
- take aspirin or medicines containing aspirin,
- recipients of the vaccine should avoid salicylates (found in Aspirin products) for 4 weeks.

There is also the possibility that recently vaccinated children may be responsible for shedding the GM virus, and cases have been documented where GM strains have caused influenza in others (known as transmission), who may be vulnerable and non-consenting.

Peak shedding occurs in more than 50% of vaccinated children on days 2 and 3, dropping to 3% by day 11 and reducing to 0% by day 25.

Manufacturers advise that people who are immunocompromised should avoid contact with a child who has recently received the nasal Flu vaccine. Parents of children in these households, who deem vaccination against Flu to be necessary, should therefore ask for the injected Flu Vaccine.

The U.K packaging leaflet lists Guillain-Barré syndrome as a reported, rare event:

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/29112>

The U.S packaging leaflet for the same product lists Meningitis as a reported, rare event:

<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/UCM294307.pdf>

Please be aware that:

- there are around a dozen cases annually of severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis occurs in three in every million doses),
- several deaths have been reported after Fluenz,
- no data exists regarding the possible effects of Fluenz on male or female fertility,
- genetically modified viruses have never been studied for long term side effects,
- Fluenz is not safe for children under the age of 2, or pregnant women.
- the vaccine contains MSG (Monosodium Glutamate).



What Are The Side Effects?

The most common side effects (affecting 1 in 10 people) are very similar to a Flu infection:

decreased appetite, nasal congestion, sore throat, muscle pain, malaise (feeling unwell), a fever.

ALL SIDE-EFFECTS, NO MATTER HOW MINOR, SHOULD BE REPORTED USING THE YELLOW CARD SCHEME:



www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard

Are schools the best place to deliver Fluenz?

Gross errors in administration of the Fluenz programme has meant that children have been vaccinated in medical error. Children with Asthma have mistakenly been given this vaccine, several with serious consequences, as well as children whose parents did not consent. This has resulted in unnecessary hospitalisations, legal action and of course huge distress.

Be Informed!

Vaccination is not mandatory within the U.K. You have the right to refuse if you have concerns.

Fluenz/FluMist has the "Black Triangle" (▼) symbol on the package leaflet, which means it requires additional monitoring and should therefore perhaps, only be administered in medical establishments.

Those observing Halal, Kosher, Vegetarian or Vegan practices should be aware that this vaccine includes pork gelatine.

Parents wishing their children to avoid accidental vaccination, inhalation of particles or shedding (especially immunocompromised) may consider keeping them at home on the day of the vaccination and during the shedding period.

Parents should also be aware that children who are kept off school on the day of vaccination and/or during the 'shedding period', may not have the absence authorised. There is currently much disparity on this issue, in schools across the U.K.

 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StopFluVaccinesInUKschools/>