

Which flu vaccine should children and young people have?

There are 3 types of flu vaccine available for children and young people in 2021 to 2022 – the nasal spray live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), the injected inactivated egg grown influenza vaccine (QIVe) and the injected inactivated cell grown influenza vaccine (QIVc). This chart indicates which vaccine they should have.

What is the child or young person's age?

under **6 months** of age

Under 6 months of age they are too young to have the flu vaccine (this is why it is important that expectant mothers have a flu vaccination; pregnant women can have the flu vaccine at any stage of their pregnancy)

6 months to under **2 years**

Are they in an at-risk group?

Yes

They should have the injected inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine QIVe (egg-grown). Children in this age group who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses 4 weeks apart

No

They are not eligible for the flu vaccine

2 years to less than **16 years** of age⁽ⁱ⁾
Reception class to school year 11

Is the nasal spray vaccine contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable?

Yes

They should have the injected Quadrivalent influenza vaccine cell grown (QIVc)⁽ⁱⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾. Children aged up to 9 years in an at-risk group who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses 4 weeks apart

No

They should have the nasal spray vaccine

16 years to less than **18 years** of age

Are they in an at-risk group?

Yes

Is the nasal spray vaccine contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable?⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

Yes

They should have the injected Quadrivalent influenza vaccine cell-grown (QIVc)

No

They are not eligible for the flu vaccine

No

They should have the nasal spray vaccine

(i) • Aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August 2021
• School aged children from Reception Year up to Year 11 (aged 4 to 15 years on 31 August 2021). Children outside these age ranges (for example, a child has been held back a year) may be vaccinated with their peers
(ii) This season QIVc (and not QIVe) has been procured for this group
(iii) If the parent of an eligible child declines LAIV because of its porcine gelatine content (and they understand that it is the most effective vaccine for children), they can request an alternative injectable vaccine. QIVc is available to order from ImmForm for these children

Resources

Annual flu programme

www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme

Green Book Influenza Chapter 19

www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19

