

Flu information for the Muslim Community



Coventry Muslim Forum

Flu facts

The flu virus is very contagious and that can be extremely serious – it kills around 11,000 people every year



This flu season, the NHS is working with the Coventry Muslim Forum to give you the facts about the flu vaccine before you decide whether or not to allow your child to be vaccinated against the flu.

You may have held back from the vaccine previously because of the issue of pork ingredients in the nasal flu spray for children or you may have been concerned about the safety of the vaccine.

Gelatine is used in a very wide range of medicines, including the nasal flu vaccine that is routinely given to children in the UK. The vaccine is safe and is known to be the best protection against a virus that is very contagious and that can be extremely serious – it kills around 11,000 people every year. Children under the age of 5 years have the highest rates of hospital admissions due to flu.

Vaccine alternative

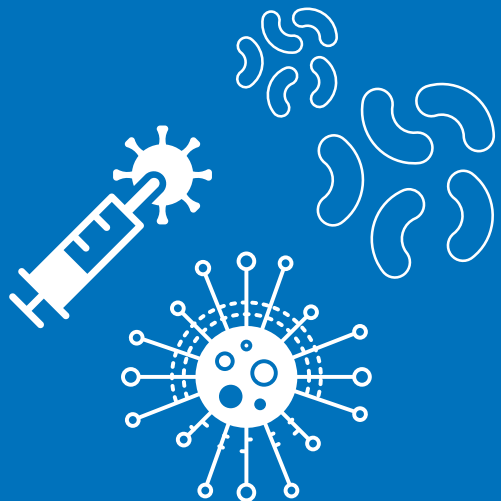
The nasal spray flu vaccine contains pork gelatine, which is not halal, however, the NHS can offer an alternative flu vaccine for your child.

If you do not want your child to have the nasal spray, they can have the flu injection instead, which does not contain any pork gelatine ingredients. The injection is less effective for children than the nasal spray, but it is far better than nothing and will help protect your child and family from flu.

Your GP will provide you with the best advice. The nasal flu spray protects children against more flu viruses. If your child has a pre-existing illness (like a heart problems), your doctor may advise giving the nasal spray vaccine instead of the adult flu jab.

The flu vaccine will help protect your child and others in your family as it helps stop them from passing the virus onto others. This is especially important for those who are vulnerable to the flu, such as the elderly and those undergoing treatment such as chemotherapy or dialysis.

**Don't delay,
book your
child's flu
vaccine today!**



Eligibility

Children between 2 and 3 years, all primary school children, some secondary school children and everyone between 2 and 17 years with a medical condition that puts them at risk for flu are eligible for a free flu vaccine. Young children aged 2 and above can get the vaccine at their GP surgery. School-aged children will be vaccinated in school once you have completed the consent form.

As a parent, you can choose which flu vaccine your child gets. If you are happy for your child to have the nasal spray, then go ahead and book an appointment or sign the school consent form. However, if you don't want your child to have the nasal spray based on religious reasons and the pork content, you can choose the adult flu jab instead. Let your GP surgery know or write this on the school flu consent form.

If you are still worried or have any questions about the flu vaccine, speak to a trusted religious scholar or your local GP.

For more information, visit
www.coventry.gov.uk/health-protection/vaccines

Don't delay, book your child's flu vaccine today!

It's our duty as parents to protect the health of our children, our family and the community.

