

November 2019 School flu vaccine programme - Advice line questions and answers

	Question	Answer
1	Why has my child's flu vaccine in primary school been cancelled?	<p>Delivery of several batches of the UK nasal spray flu vaccine (Fluenz Tetra®) have been delayed.</p> <p>This delay is affecting all the UK countries.</p> <p>We anticipate that the school programme will return to normal after expected vaccine stocks are received.</p>
2	My child has diabetes (or other long-term health condition) how can they get their flu vaccine as their school session has been cancelled?	<p>It is important your child is protected from flu.</p> <p>Please contact your child's general practice to arrange for them to get their flu vaccine there.</p> <p>Flu can be serious, especially for children with a long term health condition. So contact them soon.</p>
3	My GP practice says they don't have enough nasal spray flu vaccine to vaccinate my two or three year old	<p>GP surgeries will be able to order more nasal spray flu vaccine over the coming weeks.</p> <p>Please contact your child's GP surgery again next week.</p>
4	My GP practice say they don't have enough nasal spray flu vaccine to vaccinate my diabetic son/daughter (or other long-term health condition)	<p>Flu can be serious, especially for children with a long term health condition. It is important your child is protected from flu.</p> <p>Ask your GP surgery if they can have a flu vaccine injection. If you prefer to wait for the nasal spray vaccine, GP surgeries will be able to order more vaccine over the coming weeks.</p>
5	My child's flu vaccine session in primary school was cancelled, why can't they give the children in school a flu vaccine injection instead?	<p>The recommended flu vaccine for children aged two to 17 years old is the nasal spray vaccine as this works better in children.</p> <p>We expect the delay in nasal spray flu vaccine supply to be resolved and for the school programme to restart when vaccine supplies return to normal.</p> <p>You will be notified when your child's primary school flu vaccine session is rearranged.</p> <p>If your child has a long-term health condition they are increased risk from flu and its complications so you should contact their GP surgery now to arrange for them to have their flu vaccine as nasal spray flu vaccines are available for children with a long-term health condition in general practice.</p>

6	My child's primary school has been notified that their rescheduled vaccination session is in January. Isn't this too late?	<p>Having a flu vaccine in January will still help protect your child from flu. Typically flu starts to circulate in Wales from mid-December until March/April.</p> <p>Children who have a long-term health condition are at increased risk from flu and its complications should contact their GP surgery now to have their flu vaccine. These children are the most vulnerable to flu and its complications so it is important they get their flu vaccine early if possible</p>
7	Are other UK countries continuing to offer flu vaccine in primary school?	<p>The supply issue of nasal spray flu vaccine is affecting all the UK countries. All of the countries are prioritising the children most at risk to flu and its complications which is those with long term health conditions and children aged 2 and 3.</p> <p>Arrangements in the different countries may vary due to existing stock levels.</p>
8	Is this supply issue because of BREXIT?	<p>No.</p> <p>This is due to a delay in one part of the manufacturing process of this specific vaccine, and nothing to do with BREXIT.</p>
9	Should I just not bother getting my child vaccinated?	<p>Flu can be serious especially for children so it is important that once supply is available your child gets protected.</p> <p>Children who have a long-term health condition are at increased risk from flu and its complications and should contact their GP surgery now to have their flu vaccine. These children are the most vulnerable to flu and its complications so it is important they get their flu vaccine early if possible.</p>
10	When will I know when my child can have their vaccine in school?	When we know more about supply resuming we will let people know via the school.
11	Is the supply of other vaccines affected?	<p>No.</p> <p>This is due to a delay in one part of the manufacturing process of this specific nasal spray flu vaccine, and no other vaccines or medicines are affected in this way.</p>