

Which flu vaccine should children have?

There are two types of flu vaccine available for children in 2015/16 - the 'live' nasal spray vaccine and the inactivated injected flu vaccine. This chart indicates which vaccine children should get.

What is the child's age?

under 6 months of age

They are too young to have

6 months to under 2 years

2, 3 or 4 years

5 and 6 years, rising 7

in school years 1 and 2

7 to under 17 years

the flu vaccine (this is why it's important that expectant mothers have a flu vaccination - they can have it at any stage of their pregnancy)

Are they in an at-risk group?

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Are they in an at-risk group?

They should have the

inactivated injected flu

No

The child is not

eligible for the

flu vaccine

Are there medical reasons why they can't have the nasal spray vaccine?

No

They should

have the nasal

spray vaccine

Are there medical reasons why they can't have the nasal spray vaccine?

Yes

No

They should have the nasal spray vaccine

No

Are there medical reasons why they can't have the nasal spray vaccine?

The child is not eligible for the flu vaccine



They should have the inactivated injected flu vaccine. Children who have never had a flu vaccination will need two doses four weeks apart



They should have the nasal spray vaccine. At-risk children aged up to 9 years who have never had a flu vaccination will need two doses four weeks apart



- Those aged two, three or four years old on 31 August 2015 (but not five years) are eligible for flu vaccination.
- Children of school years 1 and 2 age (i.e. those aged five and six on 31 August 2015, rising to seven years old) are eligible for flu vaccination.
- At-risk children include those who have a long-term health conditions such as asthma, and other respiratory diseases, liver, kidney and neurological conditions including learning disabilities, even if well managed.
- The nasal spray vaccine is a 'live' vaccine but the viruses in it have been weakened so they can not cause flu. It is not suitable for all children, including those who are severely asthmatic or immunocompromised, or are on salicylate therapy. Children with egg allergy can have the nasal vaccine. However, parents whose children have a history of severe egg allergy should seek specialist advice. There is no suitable alternative flu vaccine available for otherwise healthy children.
- The vaccine will continue to be **offered** to primary school-aged children in areas that previously participated in pilots in 2014/15.

