

2025 to 2026 flu season

Which flu vaccine should children have?

The following vaccines are suitable for children and this chart indicates which vaccine is recommended by age for this season

LAIV nasal spray

Live attenuated influenza vaccine, nasal spray suspension
Available to order from ImmForm

IIVc injection

Cell-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine
Available to order from ImmForm

IIVe injection

Egg-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine
Not supplied by ImmForm

What is the child or young person's age?

under **6 months**
of age

Infants under 6 months of age 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 a clinical risk group?^(iv)

No

They are not eligible for the flu vaccine

Yes

They should have the injected IIVc

Or **IIVe⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾** if IIVc not available

Children in this age group who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

From **2 years⁽ⁱ⁾** to less than **18 years** of age
in eligible year group or in a clinical risk group^(iv)

Is the LAIV nasal spray contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable?⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

No

No contraindications to LAIV nasal spray

They should have the LAIV nasal spray vaccine

Children under 9 years of age in a clinical risk group^(iv) who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

Yes

LAIV contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable

They should have the injected IIVc

Or **IIVe⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾** if IIVc not available

Children under 9 years of age in a clinical risk group^(iv) who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

- (i) Aged 2 years on 31 August 2025, unless in a clinical risk group.
- (ii) If the parent of an eligible child declines LAIV because of its porcine gelatine content, they can request an alternative injectable vaccine. IIVc is available to order from ImmForm for these children.
- (iii) IIVe is not supplied by ImmForm.
- (iv) Or a child who is a household contact of an immunocompromised individual.

Note that IIVx is used on this resource to denote all inactivated influenza vaccines, regardless of how many virus strain antigens are included in the vaccine this season. All vaccines used for the 2025 to 2026 season are trivalent.

Resources

Green Book Influenza Chapter 19

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

Annual flu programme

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