



Flu Vaccine for Children aged 2-17



Spread the flu facts, not the influenza virus

Fact



In Ireland between 2009-2019, almost 5000 children were admitted to hospital with complications of flu. Almost 200 children had to have treatment in intensive care and 40 children died. Source: (HPSC)

Fact



Anyone can get the flu. Children carry the flu virus in their system longer than adults do, and they can spread the flu virus easily to other children and to the older and vulnerable people around them.

Fact



The nasal flu vaccine protects against the same strains as the vaccine given to at risk groups and 65s+. Children aged 2 to 17 years need to get the flu vaccine every season.

Fact



The nasal flu vaccine has been found to be more effective for children than the flu injection.

Fact



The nasal flu vaccine is the recommended vaccine for children who are in at-risk groups and have conditions like chronic heart, liver or respiratory diseases.

Fact



The flu vaccine cannot give you the flu and you cannot spread the flu to others after getting the nasal flu vaccine.

Fact



A small number of children between the age of 2 to 8 years who are at risk and have never had the flu vaccine before will need 2 doses of the nasal flu vaccine 4 weeks apart for protection.

Fact



The nasal flu vaccine is very safe. Some children may have a runny or blocked nose, aches and may have an increased temperature after getting the vaccine but it is usually mild and goes away on its own. Reactions are generally rare.

Fact



The flu vaccine for children has been given to children in the US since 2003, in the UK since 2013 and in Ireland since 2020.

Fact



A study from the UK showed a 94% reduction in primary school age children and a 59% reduction in adults GP influenza like illness consultations after the flu vaccine was introduced for children. Source: (G Kassianos, et al)