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Alternative flu vaccine for children who decline Nasal Spray as it contains pork

The flu vaccine is offered to children aged 2 to 3 years, to children of reception and primary school age, and, for the first time this year (2020) to children in the first year of secondary school (Year 7). In addition, children who are clinically at risk are offered the vaccine from the age of six months.

The vaccine is given to most children in school in the form of a nasal spray and contains a highly processed form of porcine gelatine.

If a child is at high risk from one or more medical conditions or treatments and can't have the nasal spray, the child will be offered an alternative flu vaccination by injection.

There is a limited supply of the alternative vaccine, which is less effective than the nasal spray for healthy children, so children at risk will be prioritised for this vaccine.

<u>School age children</u>
School age children who are not at risk, but whose parents would prefer that they did not have the nasal spray, can request the alternative vaccine, but it would not be available until November and only then if there was sufficient stock.

<u>Two to three-year olds</u>
Two to three-year olds who are not at risk, but whose parents would prefer that they did not have the nasal spray, can also request the alternative vaccine from their GP. Again, this would mean waiting until November and would depend upon there being sufficient stock of the alternative vaccine. GPs will not provide the alternative vaccine before November, because children at risk must be prioritised.