

Administration of the Flu Vaccination with other school aged immunisations.

Here's what you need to know

Some children, due their routine school vaccinations in year 8 and/or year 9 in school during Term 3 (January 2023 -March 2023), will be able to have their Flu Vaccination at the same time. This could involve having two or more vaccinations on the same day and for most children the Flu vaccine will be administered by a nasal spray and the other vaccination(s) by intramuscular injection. For the small number of children who require an intramuscular Flu injection (this would have been discussed with you prior to the session) this is also safe to give at the same time as the other vaccination(s).

Giving your child more than one vaccination at the same time is safe and very effective because protecting them as soon as possible is better than waiting. It also reduces the number of vaccination sessions required in school and the subsequent loss of teaching time and disruption to the school timetable.

From the moment your child is born, they are naturally being exposed to a huge number of bacteria and viruses every day. Your child's immune system is able to cope with this and as a result becomes stronger. Compared with exposure to germs in the natural environment, responding to vaccines uses only a tiny proportion of the child's immune system.

Giving vaccines together is routine in most countries around the world. Studies have demonstrated that there are no harmful effects from administering multiple vaccines in one session. (<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2016/04/25/14-questions-new-parents-ask-about-vaccination/>)

If you wish to discuss these vaccinations with your local School Aged Immunisation Service please email immunisationteam@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk