

Consent form for parents/guardians Flu vaccine for children and adolescents under 16 years of age

Flu (influenza) is a common infectious disease among children. The vast majority of children are able to cope with flu, but the infection can cause complications such as severe pneumonia and the aggravation of underlying medical conditions. In the case of severe doses of flu or complications, admission to hospital will be necessary.

As with adults, children with certain medical conditions are at slightly greater risk of becoming seriously ill from flu. This also applies to premature babies in their first year of life. Annual flu vaccinations are recommended for these risk groups. For children, this includes:

- Chronic heart or lung disease (including asthma)
- Chronic neurological disease or injury (e.g. epilepsy)
- Impaired immune system caused by illness or treatment
- Liver or kidney failure
- Diabetes (especially in the case of poorly controlled blood sugar level)
- Severe obesity
- Other serious/chronic illness where flu poses a serious health risk, based on an individual judgement by a doctor
- Premature children, especially children born before week 32 of pregnancy, from 6 months (chronological age) up to 5 years.

Flu vaccines for children

Flu vaccination is the most effective way of preventing flu. The vaccine is given annually because the flu viruses are continually evolving and the vaccine is only effective for a limited period of time. The flu vaccines are well-proven and have been in use for many years. The vaccines only very rarely cause serious side effects. The side effects mainly consist of local reactions or short-term malaise. Two types of flu vaccine are currently approved for children in Norway: inactivated injection vaccine (syringe) and live, weakened nasal spray vaccine (Fluenz Tetra).

Inactivated injection vaccine	Live attenuated (weakened) nasal spray vaccine
Approved from 6 months. Contraindications include severe reaction to a previous dose of the same vaccine, severe immediate allergic reaction to egg, known allergy to other constituents of the vaccine and acute infection with fever above 38°C.	Approved for 2-17 years. Contraindications include severe asthma or active breathing difficulties, use of acetylsalicylic acid preparations, untreated craniofacial deformities, clinical immunodeficiency, severe allergy to the vaccine's constituents and acute infection with fever above 38°C.

For children aged 6 months to 9 years who have not had flu or had the flu vaccine previously, two doses of flu vaccine at least 4 weeks apart are recommended. You can read more about the vaccines at fhi.no/influensavaksine.

Before vaccination

Vaccination is voluntary. Children under the age of 16 must have parental consent. In the case of joint parental responsibility, both parents must give their consent. Children under 16 are also entitled to be given information and be consulted according to their age and maturity. You must tell the vaccinator if your child has previously suffered a severe allergic reaction.

Tear off here

Name of child: _____ Date of birth: _____

I/we would like my/our child to be vaccinated against flu: Yes No

Guardians with parental responsibility: Guardian 1: _____ Guardian 2: _____

Guardian 1: Full name (please write clearly): _____

Guardian 1: signature: _____ Telephone number: _____

Guardian 2: Full name (please write clearly): _____

Guardian 2: signature: _____ Telephone number: _____

Any information about the child for the vaccinator: