**Winter Health and Vaccinations Article**

The flu vaccine will help to protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes can cause serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia. Vaccinating your child will also help to protect older relatives and vulnerable family members by preventing the spread of flu.

Vaccination UK will be attending schools this Autumn and Winter to administer flu vaccinations to children from reception to year 11. If your child has a long-term health condition, they may receive their vaccination at their GP surgery. The flu vaccine is free and is given by a quick and painless nasal spray however, if your child requires a porcine-free alternative, an injectable vaccination is available which can be requested when you complete the consent form.

You can consent online now by clicking this link: <https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2024/wolverhampton>. Alternatively, if you are giving consent using a paper consent form, please make sure to return this to the school office/class teacher. Consent forms need to be completed or returned no later than 5 working days before the clinic on [add date].

If you have any queries or would like to provide verbal consent, please contact Vaccination UK’s School Vaccination Team on 01902 200077 or e-mail [wolverhampton@v-uk.co.uk](mailto:wolverhampton@v-uk.co.uk)

Further information on the flu vaccine, including frequently asked questions can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>. An animation and downloadable storybook to engage children about winter health and the flu vaccine can be enjoyed at <https://bugbusterkids.co.uk/children.html>.