

Oxfordshire School Aged Immunisation Service

Newsletter for School Staff

Issue No. 1 – September 2026

Welcome to the New Academic Year!

Welcome to the first Oxfordshire School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) newsletter of the 2026/27 academic year! We hope you have had a positive start to the new term and would like to thank you in advance for your continued support with the delivery of school-aged vaccination programmes across Oxfordshire.

This newsletter is designed to keep **school staff** informed about upcoming immunisation sessions, key programme updates, consent processes, and ways you can help us communicate effectively with parents, carers, and pupils. Your support plays a vital role in helping children and young people access vaccinations safely and efficiently in school.

We will continue to share regular updates throughout the year and welcome any feedback or suggestions for future newsletter topics. Please contact us at immunisationteam@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk if there is anything you would like us to include.

2026/27 Flu Programme

This year, our flu programme will begin on the 14th September 2026 and run until the 11th December 2026. During this period, we will be offering vaccinations to between 6,500 and 11,200 children each week.

As you can imagine, this is an extremely busy time for the service, and unfortunately we have no flexibility to change dates that were confirmed last term.

Our teams work incredibly hard to deliver this important programme, usually travelling between several schools each day and starting their working day at 07:00 to 07:30. We kindly ask for your patience, understanding and kindness if there are any delays to our arrival time. These can occasionally occur due to traffic conditions, unforeseen delays at a previous school, or other operational pressures beyond our control.

If staff absence or late arrival impacts a session, our team will always do their utmost to vaccinate as many children as possible safely and efficiently on the day. We greatly appreciate your support and understanding during this exceptionally busy period, which helps us ensure that thousands of children across Oxfordshire receive their vaccinations each week.

Consent Portal Closure

The Consent Portal will continue to close at 08:30 one working day before each school session. Please help us by reminding parents/carers to submit their forms on time. Higher vaccination rates reduce the risk of flu outbreaks in your school.

Class Lists Request

We'll soon be requesting class lists with parent/carer contact details for all year groups. This helps us reach families who haven't yet provided consent.

The Department for Education (DfE), NHS England, and the Local Authority support this data sharing. The DfE has updated its guidance to clarify that schools are required to provide this information to SAIS teams. Read the guidance here: [Data protection in schools - Sharing personal data - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

If you have any concerns regarding sharing this data with us, please let us know and we'll pass them on to NHS England and the Local Authority for support and resolution.

Resources for learning about vaccination in schools

The engagement of schools in NHS public health programmes, including vaccination, is recognised by Ofsted as being important and provides an opportunity to discuss vaccinations as part of Health Education lessons.

The flu vaccination programme provides an opportunity to integrate learning about the benefits of vaccination into the school curriculum including history and science.

UKHSA have developed a range of teacher resources on germs and bacteria to support learning about microbes, infection prevention and control, antibiotics and vaccination. These resources are available on [e-Bug](#). The British Society for Immunology has also produced educational resources for those in [Key Stages 2 and 3](#).

Annual School Aged Immunisation Service Survey

Thank you to all schools that completed our annual survey. We received feedback from primary, secondary, special and independent schools across Oxfordshire, and your insights are invaluable in helping us improve our service.

We are pleased that your feedback showed high levels of satisfaction, highlighting clear communication, easy access to information, and professional, friendly vaccination teams. Many of you also reported that sessions ran smoothly and that staff were calm, supportive and reassuring for children and young people, including those with additional needs or anxieties.

This termly Schools Newsletter was also well received, with many of you describing it as useful or extremely useful. Suggestions for wider health topics such as healthy lifestyles, potty training and dental health have been shared with the School Nursing Service for consideration in their future parent and carer communications, as these topics sit outside the remit of this Immunisation Service newsletter which is aimed at you, our school staff.

You also suggested continued reminders, clearer parent communications, translated information and more education about the benefits of vaccination. In

response, we will be working on simplifying our parent/carer letters this year and have developed tutor-time voice-over assemblies for HPV, Td/IPV and MenACWY programmes which will be sent out to schools. We also value your support in identifying and letting us know of families who may need extra help with completing consent forms and/ or understanding the vaccination information so we can provide support as early as possible.

Following a request for vaccination uptake data, we have now shared with you your school's data for the 2025/26 HPV, Td/IPV and MenACWY programs and included information on how this data can be accessed on Cinnamon. Please ensure this information is passed on to your Headteacher and senior leadership team, along with a copy of this newsletter, so they are aware of the latest programme updates, achievements and key messages. Thankyou.

Contacting Us

Flu is always a busy time for our duty desk. If you reach our voicemail, please don't leave a message but email us and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Phone: 07920 254 400

Email: immunisationteam@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

Website: www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms