

Dear families,

Influenza is an illness caused by a virus that is transmitted from person to person through droplets released when coughing and sneezing.

Vaccination helps to keep your children healthy and protected against influenza. The more people who get vaccinated, the less likely it is that the flu will spread.

Influenza vaccination should be done annually, as the virus can change each year, and our immune systems need to learn to recognise and respond appropriately to inactivate it.

Adverse reactions that may occur after intranasal vaccination are usually mild and temporary, such as a runny or stuffy nose and headache.

Vaccination in children has been shown to prevent serious illness and hospitalisation across all ages.

The Regional Ministries of Health and Education are working together with the aim of administering flu vaccines in schools for children in the **1st and 2nd years of infant education**.

We are writing to you to provide all the necessary information regarding the flu vaccination to be carried out in schools for the 2024/25 campaign.

Vaccination in schools will be conducted using the Fluenz® **INTRANASAL** vaccine, which involves administering 0.1ml of liquid into each nostril. The vaccination will be carried out by health professionals from the health centre with which the school is affiliated, who will visit the school to administer the vaccine.

Vaccination in schools is optional, but the aim is to facilitate vaccination for all children born between 2020 and 2021, thereby improving access to this disease prevention measure.

At the start of the school year, your school will provide you with details on how and when this vaccination will take place, along with all the relevant supplementary information (factsheet, authorisation forms, etc.). In special situations, where certain medical conditions or contraindications for the intranasal vaccine exist, you can contact your health centre. For more information, please consult the websites of the Regional Ministries of Health and Education .

Thank you in advance for your attention and cooperation.