



Childhood flu update!

As we prepare for an extended childhood flu immunisation season, please find links to recently refreshed information, resources, and support. [Share good times not flu | Homepage](#)

These include information to help parents and carers make informed decisions and for you, as professionals, to help you respond accurately to concerns and queries and also to help rebalance misinformation being shared by some pressure groups.

An example of such here: [Open letter to Locala's school-aged immunisation team \(informedconsentmatters.co.uk\)](#)

In terms of FAQs – here they are for the public [Share Good Times not Flu | Flu and vaccines in children FAQs](#)

and here they are for HCPs. [Why and FAQs \(fluenztetra.co.uk\)](#)

See below additional concerns/queries raised and responses from the manufacturers, Astra Zeneca.

Viral shedding:

The documentation approved by the MHRA which is provided to all HCPs clearly states the following:

Shedding of vaccine virus

Although vaccinated children are known to shed virus a few days after vaccination, it is less able to spread from person-to-person than the natural infection. The amount of virus shed is normally below the levels needed to pass on infection to others and the virus does not survive for long outside of the body. This is in contrast to natural flu infection, which spreads easily during the flu season.

In schools where-the nasal spray [LAIV] is administered, the overall risk of contact with influenza viruses is significantly reduced by having a large number of children vaccinated, thus reducing their risk of wild flu infection. In the USA, where there has been extensive use of the flu vaccine for many years, serious illness amongst immunocompromised contacts who are inadvertently exposed to vaccine virus has never been observed. Expert doctors at Great Ormond Street Hospital, who deal with many children with very serious immune problems, do not recommend keeping such children off school purely because of LAIV vaccination.”

Monosodium glutamate (MSG)

MSG, is listed as an ingredient in our vaccine under the [list of excipients](#) in the documentation approved by the MHRA. It is common in other vaccines.

[The University of Oxford's Knowledge Hub](#) has a useful list of common ingredient, including "*Monosodium glutamate, a salt made from the common amino acid glutamine*" which "*In vaccines it is used in small quantities as a stabiliser.*"

Dipotassium phosphate

As per above, dipotassium phosphate is included. "*Many vaccines contain aluminium salts such as aluminium hydroxide, aluminium phosphate or potassium aluminium sulphate. They act as adjuvants, strengthening and lengthening the immune response to the vaccine*".

Yours sincerely



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