Please see the information below relating to recurring queries or concerns being raised by parents/carers in relation to the upcoming nasal flu vaccinations.

**Shredding of the virus if administered in classrooms**:

Fluenz does not create an external mist of vaccine virus in the air when children are being vaccinated and others in the room would not be at risk of ‘catching’ the vaccine virus. Administration of the intranasal vaccine delivers just 0.1ml of fluid straight into each nostril and almost all the fluid is immediately absorbed into the child’s nose the vaccine virus that is shed is less able to spread from person to person than natural flu infection which spreads easily during the flu season.

**Covid-19 is not in the Nasal Flu Vaccine**

The vaccine contains 2 strains of A and B Flu virus that are selected  based on surveillance of circulating Flu viruses

A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019  (H1N1)pdm09 -like strain

A/Hong  Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2) -like strain

B/Washington/02/2019 -like strain

B/Phuket/3073/2013 -like strain

**Porcine gelatine**

The Nasal Flu spray  contains a highly  purified  form  of gelatine derived from  pigs this is used as a stabiliser and protects the live viruses from  the effects of temperature. There is no other live attenuated  flu vaccine available that does not contain porcine gelatine.

In order to prevent localised outbreaks  in the 2020/21 flu season, an inactivated flu vaccine (Injection)  **may be** offered to those children  whose parents refuse Fluenz due to the porcine gelatine content, however this will not be until Mid November. The service will keep a record of Parents/carers who have declined due to the above reason and will contact parents/carers directly to arrange an appointment.