

CHILDREN'S NASAL VACCINE 'FLUENZ' AND PORK GELATINE

UPDATE 2015

**Fluenz nasal spray is haram according to
scholarly opinion from the UK and abroad**



Bolton Council of Mosques Health Forum (BCoM) and a number of UK Muftis, and other health professionals have consulted on the issue of pork gelatine used in the Fluenz nasal spray vaccine in light of further tests carried out in the last year by Public Health England. The opinion that the vaccine is Haram remains the same as last year despite the tests. We are sharing a summary of our findings and information to support you to make an informed decision on this important matter.

FLUENZ NASAL SPRAY IS A FLU VACCINE USED FOR HEALTHY 2/3/4/5 & 6 YEAR OLDS IN BOLTON AND ACROSS ENGLAND

- This is an optional vaccine sprayed into the nose, it is not injected through the skin
- The vaccine contains gelatine derived from pork.
- Although the DNA of pigs was not detected in a recent test of Fluenz by Public Health England, many Islamic Scholars from England & abroad regard this porcine gelatine as Haram (not permissible for Muslims) because they do not accept the concept of "transformation" (Istihala) in principle as a means which by which a haram substance such as pork can be transformed into a halal substance.
- Some scholars do allow medication containing porcine gelatine to be taken when based on a genuine medical need & in the absence of a suitable alternative. However, Fluenz does not fit this criteria because it is not intended as direct treatment for an individual, rather it is intended as an "optional" way of avoiding the spread of Flu.
- Children with illnesses such as asthma / diabetes / heart problems should have the injectable Flu vaccine.
- Please do not advise anyone to avoid any vaccination or medication without consulting their Doctor.
- Please seek professional medical advice if you have health queries. For more information on the reasons behind the new vaccination campaign & a description of the contents of the Fluenz vaccines, go to the NHS Choices website where you can comment on this and other health related matters.
- For religious queries please ask an Islamic Scholar whose opinion you trust

For further information, please visit the Bolton Council of Mosques' website at www.thebcom.org