

10/01/2022

Dear parent or guardian,

### **Second doses for 12-15 year-olds**

I am writing to let you know that we will be running vaccination clinics in your school very soon so that your child can receive their second COVID-19 vaccine. We will share details of the clinics with you shortly.

From the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, 12-15 year-olds will be eligible for a second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. One dose of the COVID-19 vaccine gives good protection against your child getting seriously ill, but two doses gives stronger and longer-lasting protection.

As part of 2nd visits to schools, School Age Vaccination service providers will continue to offer a 1st dose if a child missed the opportunity last year due to absence or COVID.

Most children can get a 2nd dose from 12 weeks after they had their 1st dose. If your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they need to wait 12 weeks before they can have a COVID-19 vaccine.

Those that are at high risk are eligible for their 2nd dose from eight weeks, and should receive a letter from their GP

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection is usually mild in most people but can be very unpleasant and one dose will provide good protection against severe illness and hospitalisation. Vaccinating 12 - 15 year olds also reduces the need for children to miss school and reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19 within schools, therefore ensuring that children miss as little in-school time as is absolutely necessary.

You also have the choice to access vaccination outside of school hours in a local vaccination service.

The NHS National Booking Service (NBS) is available for children, so you can book a COVID-19 vaccination for your child in the same way adults can.

All vaccinations will be given by staff who are specifically trained in the delivery of vaccinations for children and young people.

Local services providing clinics for 12 to 15-year-olds include the large vaccination centres and local community pharmacies.

All appointments offered will be outside of school hours, including evenings and weekends. More locations and appointments will be added regularly to the NHS NBS.

Information about consent will be provided via the NHS National Booking Service and will also be discussed before vaccination takes place.

Parents or guardians who have questions about vaccination are encouraged to make a booking for their child and have a conversation with the healthcare professional at the vaccination location.

12 to 15-year-olds must be accompanied by a responsible adult if they are not being vaccinated in school, where consent will be collated by the school and SAVS Provider from parents.

If parents have any questions about their child's vaccination, they are encouraged to book an appointment for their child and then discuss any concerns or questions with the healthcare professional at the vaccination location.

More information about vaccinations for 12 to 15-year-olds can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-for-children-aged-12-to-15/>

Anyone wanting to book an appointment should visit: [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccine](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccine).

There are also [walk in sites](#). Search 'Find a walk-in coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination site', but we are encouraging all patients to make use of the National Booking System so that we may effectively distribute as much vaccine as possible.

If you do have your vaccination outside of school, please let your school know.

Yours sincerely

Prof Neil Watson

Chief Operating Officer for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme