

Parents / Carers / Guardians

My Ref:

Your Ref: DSA/PN/da

Date: 23rd September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers/ Guardians,

You will have seen in the national media that all children between the ages of 12 – 15 will be offered COVID vaccination over the next few weeks. Children in this age group with underlying health conditions who are vulnerable to COVID have been receiving vaccination through their GP. Barnet, Haringey and Enfield NHS Trust (BEH) are our school aged vaccine providers who are providing this service for young people in Enfield and will be visiting schools. You will be contacted shortly with more information.

Parents will be sent information to inform them (and their young person) about vaccination to enable decisions to be made. You will also receive information from BEH about flu immunisation and HPV immunisation from BEH if your child is eligible for these vaccines. Parental consent will be sort by BEH and a system called e-consent will be used.


We are holding two webinars next week (26th at 6pm and 30th at 12pm) please feel free to join if you have any questions about COVID vaccination for this age group. A flyer for the sessions is attached.

Very few healthy children and young people with Covid-19 go on to have severe disease, but offering vaccination to 12 to 15 year olds should help to reduce the risk of complications, reduce time out of education, and reduce the spread of Covid-19 within schools.

Children will be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which is the vaccine approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for children and young people over 12 years of age. This follows a thorough review of the safety, quality and effectiveness of the vaccine in this age group.

Tony Theodoulou
Executive Director People
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Enfield EN1 3XY

www.enfield.gov.uk

 If you need this document in another language or format contact the service using the details above.

At present, one dose of the vaccine will be offered to children in this age group, and the timing of a second dose will be confirmed later. Children in this age group who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), or live with someone who is immunosuppressed, will be offered two doses and will be contacted by their GP to arrange this.

We have included information, please do share with your young person.

Yours faithfully



Dudu Sher-Arami
Acting Director of Public Health
London Borough of Enfield



Peter Nathan
Director of Education
London Borough of Enfield

Belinda Danso-Langley

Belinda Danso-Langley
Neurodevelopmental Community Paediatric Service Lead
CYP Integrated Care Group
Enfield Community Services

Enfield Council has launched a series of 14 e-newsletters covering a range of topics that provide residents with more frequent Council news and service updates. More than 40,000 people have already signed up, make sure you're one of them. You can register at www.enfield.gov.uk/newsletters

[COVID-19 vaccination information on NHS.UK](#)

- General information for the public on the Covid-19 vaccination, including how to get the vaccination, eligibility, side effects and safety.

[Children's Covid-19 vaccination leaflets](#)

- Including the 'What to expect after your Covid-19 vaccination' leaflet for children aged 12+.

[Easy-read children's Covid-19 vaccination leaflet](#)

- Easy-read guides providing information on Covid-19 vaccination.

[Information and FAQs for schools, parents, guardians, carers and young people on 12-15 vaccination](#)

- Including frequently asked questions about issues such as consent and side effects.

- **Frequently asked questions**

- (Taken from [guidance published on GOV.UK on 15 September 2021](#))

- [When do the vaccinations need to be given?](#)

The COVID-19 vaccinations are being given from the autumn term. Your local school vaccination service will be in touch to arrange a date.

- [Which vaccine is approved for use in this age group?](#)

Children will be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which is the vaccine approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for children and young people over 12 years of age. This follows a thorough review of the safety, quality and effectiveness of the vaccine in this age group.

- Who will be giving the vaccine to the children?

The programme will be delivered by an NHS commissioned school vaccination team which may include nurses, healthcare support workers, administrative staff, and other associated professionals who specialise in the delivery of school age vaccinations.

The team will administer the vaccination according to nationally agreed standards. Staff are appropriately qualified, trained (including in safeguarding) and experienced in vaccinating children and young people. Staff administering the vaccine will be wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

- How will the vaccination team identify the children to be vaccinated?

The consent forms will be collected from the school by the school vaccination team. This process may happen electronically in some areas. School vaccination teams will supply paper versions for families who cannot access the digital or email versions. The team will then have a list of all children for whom consent has been received in advance of the immunisation session.

- How does the consent process work?

All parents or those with parental responsibility are asked for consent and will usually make this decision, jointly with their children.

In secondary schools, some older children may be sufficiently mature to provide their own consent. This sometimes occurs if a parent has not returned a consent form but the child still wishes to have the vaccine on the day of the session. Every effort will be made to contact the parent to seek their verbal consent. The school has no role in this process.

This is a well-established process which is used in other school-based vaccination programmes.

- How are schools involved in the consent process?

Whilst schools may host immunisation services, they are not responsible for securing parental or child consent, for assessing Gillick competence or mediating between parents and children who may disagree about whether or not to consent.

This is the role of registered nurses in the school vaccination teams, who have extensive experience and the expertise to handle these issues and are professionally accountable for their decisions. Legal accountability for offering COVID-19 vaccines to children and young people sits with the school vaccination team and not with the school.

- Can parents refuse to have their child vaccinated?

Yes. The vaccination is not mandatory. Parents will be asked to give their consent for the vaccination. Children may express a wish to have the vaccine and may have the capacity to provide informed consent themselves.

Parents should be encouraged to speak to their children ahead of time so that there is agreement on consent by the vaccination session.

- How should schools respond to misinformation campaigns about the vaccine?

We are aware some schools have received letters or emails which feature false or misleading information (misinformation) about the safety, efficacy and purpose of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Headteachers and teachers are advised:

1. Not to engage directly: misinformation narratives and tactics flourish when they are responded to.
2. Acknowledge receipt: if a response is needed, simply acknowledge receipt of concerns.

3. If there is a need to, refer to the latest scientific guidance on the issue. Some helpful links to trusted sources include:

- [COVID-19 children's programme guidance and leaflets](#) from Public Health England
- [Vaccine Knowledge project](#)
- the World Health Organization's [Mythbusters page](#)
- the [Check Before You Share Toolkit](#)
- [Health Publications website](#) to order and download COVID-19 publications
- information on the [COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- information on the [COVID-19 vaccination programme](#)

- What about those children turning 12 years of age within the school year, after the date of the vaccination session?

School vaccination providers will vaccinate all children aged 12 years and over on the day of the school visit. Young people in year 7 who are aged 12 years and have consented will be identified by school vaccination teams and vaccinated at the same session, alongside pupils in years 8 onwards.

A follow-up offer will be made to any children who miss the first vaccination in their school. This will help to ensure that the following pupils can access the vaccine:

- those turning 12 years after the session
- those who were absent from school on the day
- those who have recently had a COVID-19 infection
- those who subsequently change their minds or take longer to reach a decision.

- What happens if a child has a health condition or is unwell on the day of the vaccination session?

If a child is unwell on the day, the school vaccination provider team will decide whether to proceed with vaccination or not.

For any children who want to be vaccinated but are unable for health or other reasons to have the vaccine on the day, there will be catch-up arrangements in place.

- Why do children have to be observed for 15 minutes after vaccination.

Serious allergic reactions to vaccination are very rare but tend to happen within a few minutes of the injection. Vaccination teams are all trained to spot and manage allergic reactions and so all children will be observed for 15 minutes.

All vaccination teams will bring the necessary equipment to treat an allergic reaction.

Children with allergies to common food items are not at higher risk of these serious allergies.

- What should be done if a child becomes unwell in school after receiving the vaccination?

If the school vaccination team is still on site, seek advice directly from them. If they have left the site, the situation should be managed according to existing policies for pupil sickness in school. Schools should contact the vaccination team to ensure they are aware and can report any event related to the timing of administration of the vaccine.

See [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) for further information.

- Will children who are home educated be offered a vaccine as part of this programme?

All children in the eligible age group who do not attend school, for example those who are home educated or living in secure accommodation should be offered the vaccine.

Local NHS teams will have plans in place to offer vaccination to these children.

- Can a 12 to 15 year old use the National Booking Service to make an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination?

Booking via the National Booking Service is not presently planned for children in this age group.

- Can a healthy 12 to 15 year old use a COVID-19 walk-in vaccination site?

Unfortunately, walk-ins from this age group cannot be accepted. Presently there are no plans to make them available.

- Can school staff have the vaccine at the same time as children?

Not as part of the schools' programme. All school staff will already have been offered vaccination as part of the adult programme.

They should make sure that they have had their 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine. If they have not yet been vaccinated, they can still make an appointment with their GP, book online, go to a walk in centre or call 119.

See [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) for further information.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINATION? AGED 12-15?

If you have any questions about COVID-19 vaccination for 12-15 year olds, please come along to one of our informal Zoom question and answer sessions with a panel of doctors and nurses from the Enfield Council Public Health team, the local school immunisations team and local GP practices.

The first session will take place from 6-7pm on Tuesday 28th September, and the second will take place on Thursday 30th September at 12pm-1pm. The sessions will be informal, so feel free to only join for part of one if you can't make the whole thing.

We are happy to answer any questions you have related to COVID-19 vaccinations for 12-15 year olds. The session is open to parents and carers of young people in this age group, as well as any young people interested in finding out more about COVID vaccination. We look forward to seeing you there and doing our best to answer your questions!



SESSION 1 JOINING INFORMATION: TUESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 6PM-7PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83897885839?pwd=RklnbHB5UjRKOHRyVnVqUVVJ3aHYrdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 9788 5839
Passcode: 392414

SESSION 2 JOINING INFORMATION: THURSDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 12PM-1PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84769314630?pwd=SGlITON6SVJoZGJjTGxpMFNORXZmUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 6931 4630
Passcode: 027939

Don't delay in getting your **COVID-19 vaccine**