

Midland Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Children and Young People Covid Vaccination Team
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COVID 19 Programme 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian

Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine for children aged 5 to 15

The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines are safe and effective. 2 doses are being offered to children aged 5 to 15 to give them the best protection against COVID-19.

Why children are being offered the COVID-19 vaccine

COVID-19 is usually mild in most children, but it can make some children unwell.

1 dose of the COVID-19 vaccine gives good protection against your child getting seriously ill. But 2 doses gives stronger and longer-lasting protection against future COVID-19 variants.

Vaccinating children can reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection to your child and those around them.

When children will be offered the COVID-19 vaccine

Children can get a 1st dose of the vaccine from the day they turn 5.

Most children can get a 2nd dose from 12 weeks after they had their 1st dose.

If your child has a condition that means they're at high risk from COVID-19 or they live with someone who has a weakened immune system, they can get a 2nd dose from 8 weeks after they had their 1st dose.

If your child is aged 12 to 15 and at high risk from COVID-19, they can also [get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine](#) if they had a 2nd dose at least 3 months ago.

If your child has COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19

If your child has a confirmed COVID-19 infection and is not at high risk from COVID-19, they need to wait 12 weeks before they can have a COVID-19 vaccine.

If they are at high risk, or they live with someone who has a weakened immune system, they should wait 4 weeks.

This starts from the date their symptoms started or the date of their positive test result, whichever was earlier.

If your child has [symptoms of COVID-19](#), but has not had a test, they should wait until their symptoms are better before they get a COVID-19 vaccine. You can talk to a healthcare professional at the vaccination site about this.

How children can get the COVID-19 vaccine

Parents will get information offering them the chance to make an appointment for their child to be vaccinated.

Children aged 5 to 15 can:

- In Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent the CYP Vaccination team are continuing to arrange visits to some schools.
- book their vaccination appointments online for an appointment at a vaccination centre or pharmacy
- find a walk-in vaccination site to get vaccinated without needing an appointment
- wait to be contacted by a local NHS service such as their GP surgery to arrange their appointments

If your child's school is being visited you will receive a consent form. Please complete the consent form as soon as possible to ensure all information is as up to date and accurate as possible and return to school.

If you do not submit written consent, your child will not receive the vaccination.

Consent needs to be given by someone with parental responsibility of delegated authority

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:

The person(s) with parental responsibility will usually, but not always, be the child's birth parents.

People with parental responsibility for the child include: the child's mother; the child's father if married to the mother at the child's conception, birth or later; a legally appointed guardian; the local authority if the child is on a care order; or a person named in a residence order in respect of the child. Fathers who have never been married to the child's mother will only have parental responsibility if they acquired it through a court order or parental responsibility agreement.

After the 30th November 2003 unmarried fathers have automatic parental responsibility for their children if they are named on the birth certificate. For a child born before the 30th November 2003, they can be re-registered and the father named on the birth certificate, after which the father will have automatic parental responsibility.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY:

In particular circumstances, the person(s) who hold(s) parental responsibility may have given delegated authority to a foster carer to be able to give consent for immunisations. Where a foster

carer does not hold delegated authority for immunisations please arrange for the local authority to complete and sign the enclosed form.

Booking vaccination appointments online

You can book your child's 1st dose online from the day they turn 5.

You can usually book their 2nd dose from 24 hours after they had their 1st dose.

You'll be offered appointment dates from 12 weeks after their 1st dose.

[Book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment](#)

Getting the vaccine at a walk-in vaccination site

Your child can get a 1st dose at a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site from the day they turn 5.

They can get a 2nd dose if it's been 12 weeks since their 1st dose, or 8 weeks if they're at high risk from COVID-19.

[Find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#)

Which COVID-19 vaccine will children get?

Children will be given the Pfizer/BioNTech (Comirnaty) vaccine for both doses.

You can read the [Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine patient information leaflet on GOV.UK](#).

What happens after the vaccination?

In Staffordshire and Stoke –on-Trent children and young people will be asked to wait for 15 minutes after having the vaccine. This is in the unlikely event they have a serious reaction to the vaccine.

If your child has allergies or had a reaction after a previous dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, tell the staff at the vaccination centre or pharmacy before they are vaccinated.

Research has found it's very rare to have a serious allergic reaction to the vaccine. If this does happen, it usually happens within minutes.

Staff at vaccination centres, pharmacies and schools are trained to deal with reactions and treat them immediately.

Find out more about:

- [what to expect after vaccination for children and young people aged 12 to 17 on GOV.UK](#)
- [what to expect after vaccination for your child aged 5 to 11 on GOV.UK](#)

Side effects and safety

The COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the UK have met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness.

They can cause some side effects in children, but not everyone gets them.

Any side effects are usually mild and should only last 1 or 2 days, such as:

- a sore arm from the injection
- feeling tired
- a headache
- feeling achy
- flu-like symptoms including shivering (chills)

More serious side effects, such as heart inflammation (myocarditis), are very rare.

[Find out more about COVID-19 vaccine side effects and safety for children](#)

COVID-19 vaccine ingredients

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine does not contain egg or animal products.

More information

- [GOV.UK: guidance for parents on COVID-19 vaccination programme for young people](#)
- [GOV.UK: COVID-19 vaccination for children and young people aged 12 to 17](#)
- [GOV.UK: a guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11](#)

More in [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination for children](#)

- Vaccination for children aged 5 to 15
- [Vaccine side effects and safety for children](#)

If you have any queries about your child's vaccination you can contact 119 your GP or contact the team on 12-15covidimms@mpft.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Children and young people Covid vaccination team