

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The COVID Schools Immunisation Team are running a second vaccination session in your child's school on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. If your child has not received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination, this is another opportunity for them to do so.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme for healthy 12 to 15 year olds in the UK consists of one dose of the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine. If your child has already been vaccinated for COVID-19 they will not be vaccinated again.

Please be aware, guidance has changed recently. Therefore, if your child has had COVID-19, they will not be able to be vaccinated until 12 weeks (84 days) since onset (or positive test) rather than 28 days as was previously the case.

### **How do I give consent for COVID-19 vaccination?**

**If you have already completed a positive consent for COVID-19 vaccination**, you do not need to complete another consent form.

**If you have not already completed a positive consent form** (this includes previously completing a negative consent, but now wish to change this to a positive consent) please complete the steps below, before the closing date and time, to consent for your child to have the COVID-19 Vaccination.

**The consent form will close 1 working day before the vaccination session date.**

**Your online consent form closes at 11am, 1 working day before your session date, which can be found in the accompanying email from your child's school.**

- 1. Click on the following the link:** [www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Covid](http://www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Covid)
- 2. Enter and confirm your preferred email address** – you will receive a confirmation email following submission of the consent form.
- 3. Enter your school code:** **SX114579**
- 4. Complete and submit the consent form**, indicating your choice of consent - Please ensure you provide the child's registered address and GP.
- 5. A further email will be sent to you containing information on clinic appointment booking**– It can take up to 2 days for this email to arrive, please check your junk folder before contacting us.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable and requires a second dose, you can book this via the National Booking Service, using this link: <http://www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine> .

If you are unable to complete the online form, do not want your child to have this vaccination course, or wish to change your consent, please read the frequently asked questions for how to proceed.

We hope that the information provided helps you to make a positive decision about protecting your child against this virus.

Yours sincerely

**Immunisation Clinical Service Manager**



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What if my child has recently tested positive for COVID-19?**

Please be aware guidance has recently changed. If your child has had COVID-19 they will not be able to be vaccinated until 12 weeks (84 days) since onset of symptoms (or positive test) rather than 28 days as was previously the case.

### **What do I do if I am unable to complete a form online?**

Call the Covid Schools Immunisation service on 01293 227797 and we will be able to take your consent information over the phone.

### **What do I do if I do not want my child to have this vaccination?**

Please complete the online consent form following the steps in the parent letter, and indicating that you do not give consent for the COVID-19 vaccination. In the absence of a form, we will follow national guidance on children self-consenting.

### **What if I have already consented?**

You do not need to complete another consent form. You will receive a separate email sent to the email address used on your consent form, containing instructions of how you can book into one of these clinics. If you have not received this, please check your junk folder.

### **What if they want the vaccination but, as a parent / guardian, we would rather they didn't have it?**

If you do not want your child to have these vaccinations, please complete the online consent form indicating this. However, if your child approaches us requesting this vaccination where you have indicated you do not consent, we would endeavour to have a conversation with you to discuss their options.

### **I've consented for my child to have the vaccine, but they refuse it on the day?**

If your child refuses to have the vaccine, we will not vaccinate them during these catch-up sessions. You will receive an email, sent to the email address provided when completing the online form, advising you of the vaccination outcome. If your child was not vaccinated, following submission of a positive consent form, your email will advise of the reason for this and contain details of how to book into a further catch up clinic.

### **What happens if one parent/carer consent but the other doesn't?**

If we receive 2 forms with one consenting and another not giving consent we will not vaccinate your child in school. If you completed a positive consent you will receive an email, sent to the email address provided when completing the online form, containing details of how to book into a catch up clinic. During the catch-up clinic, if your child consents to having the vaccination, and is assessed as having capacity to make an informed decision, we would proceed with the vaccination.

### **What do I do if I have changed my mind after completing an online consent form?**

You must contact the Covid Schools Immunisation service on 01293 227797 to change your consent and cancel your appointment prior to the day of the vaccination clinic.

### **How will I know when my child has been vaccinated?**

You will receive an email, sent to the email address provided when completing the online form, advising you of the vaccination outcome. If your child was not vaccinated, following submission of a positive consent form, your email will advise of the reason for this and contain details of how to book into a catch up clinic.

### **My child is having other routine vaccinations; can they still have their COVID-19 Vaccine?**

Yes, your child can have other vaccinations around the same time as the COVID-19 vaccination. Guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) states that the COVID vaccine can be given alongside other live and inactivated vaccines. The COVID vaccine is an inactivated intramuscular vaccination, whereas influenza (LAIV) is a live nasal spray vaccination. There is no longer any need to observe a 7 days gap between vaccines. The only exception to this new guidance is shingles vaccination, where a 7 day interval should be observed.

### **Will my child be able to receive another vaccine in these catch-up sessions?**

No, these clinics are specifically for COVID-19 vaccination only.



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Which vaccination will my child receive?

Pfizer Comirnaty is the vaccine used in the 12-15 age group for preventing COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus. The patient information leaflet can be found here: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.12740.pdf>

### On the day of vaccination

Wear clothes that would allow the nurses to access the top of the arm, such as a short sleeved shirt/T shirt. They should have breakfast as usual and ensure that they have plenty to drink throughout the day.

### What to expect afterwards

Following vaccination the young person may experience fever, aches, headache, nausea or tiredness. This is an expected immune response which can be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen (never aspirin for under-16s); always follow the directions on the packet. It's common to get some swelling, redness or tenderness at the injection site. Sometimes a small painless lump develops, but this usually disappears in a few weeks. Any other side effects are unusual. If you're worried about any reaction you can call the NHS 111 service. Please inform us or your GP if your child has any side effects other than those listed above following vaccination.

### Vaccine Safety

The COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by the MHRA for 12 to 15 year olds. Information around the vaccine is available from [www.sussexhealthandcare.uk](http://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk)

