

Covid 19 Vaccinations for 12-15-year olds

Frequently Asked Questions

Parents are likely to have questions about receiving the vaccine, so we hope these frequently asked questions will be helpful.

Why should you have your child vaccinated?

The UK's Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) all agree that while COVID-19 is typically mild or asymptomatic in most young people, it can be very unpleasant for some, the vaccine will provide good protection against severe illness and hospitalisation.

Vaccinating 12- to 15-year-olds should also help to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 12-15 vaccine programme should therefore provide protection to young people. This will help to keep young people emotionally well and happier and this was an important consideration for the CMOs.

The COVID-19 vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccine helps to reduce the chance of COVID-19 infection and provides good protection against serious disease. It may take a few weeks to build up some protection from the first dose of vaccine.

Is it safe for young people?

The medicines regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), has confirmed the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for 12 to 17 year olds. This followed a rigorous review of the safety, quality and effectiveness of the vaccines in this age group.

The UK has also benefited from having data from the US, Canada and Israel, which have already offered vaccines universally to young people aged 12 to 15 years.

These 2 videos from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) explain this in more detail:

[Video 1](#) – right click open hyperlink (Search YouTube Vaccines Q & A with DR Nighat Arif) and

[Video 2](#) right click open hyperlink (Search YouTube: Dr Alex Bowmer - COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A)

My child did not receive their first vaccine in school, can they receive their second dose in school?

Yes, as long as it has been 12 weeks since their first dose. Please include date of first vaccine on consent form.

My child was 15 when they had their first vaccine in school but has since turned 16, can they get their second dose in school?

No, they will need to attend a Covid hub. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

What do I do if my child is absent from school on the day of vaccinations?

We aim to carry out a second visit within school, the team will contact you to inform.

What do I do if my child has had a positive COVID test within 12 weeks of the date they are due to be vaccinated in school?

Unfortunately, your child will not be given their vaccine in school and would be advised to attend a Covid hub after the 12 weeks.

My child is still to receive their first dose can they have this?

Following the date for the second doses, the team will attend the school for a second time to offer those who were absent for first and second doses.

My child has a medical condition will this affect them?

For the majority of medical conditions, it is recommended that your child has the Covid vaccine, you may receive a phone call from a nurse to discuss.

How were the vaccines developed so quickly?

All vaccines have had 3 stages of clinical trials and were tested on tens of thousands of people around the world. The trial phases were run in parallel, speeding up the overall time of vaccine production, but not the critical research time.

Since December 2020 the Pfizer vaccine has been given to millions of people in the UK and has an excellent safety record.

These 2 videos from DHSC explain this in more detail:

[Video 3](#) -right click open hyperlink (Search YouTube: Dr Charles Esene, from Afro GP quickly and safely)

[Video 4](#) -right click open hyperlink (Search YouTube: Dr Alex Bowmer - COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A)

How the consent process works

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

A child will not be vaccinated without consent.

Is it safe to have COVID and other vaccines at the same time?

Yes. Public Health England advises that there are no safety concerns and that COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time as other vaccines.. It is standard practice for different vaccines to be given at the same time as each other. This happens frequently with routine childhood vaccinations in the UK and other countries.

Common side effects

Most side effects are mild and short-term and not everyone gets them. The very common side effects should only last a day or 2.

Very common side effects in the first day or 2 include:

- having a painful, heavy feeling and tenderness in the arm where you had your injection
- feeling tired
- headache, aches and chills
- young people may also have flu-like symptoms with episodes of shivering and shaking for a day or 2
- We suggest that young people should rest and take paracetamol (following the dose advice in the packaging) to help make them feel better.

Very rare serious side effects

Worldwide, there have been recent, very rare cases of inflammation of the heart called myocarditis or pericarditis reported after COVID-19 vaccines. Most of these people felt better following rest and simple treatments.

These cases have been seen mostly in younger males and mainly occurred within a few days of the second dose; myocarditis is extremely rare after the first dose of the vaccine.

Can a 12 to 15-year-old use a COVID-19 walk-in site if this would be quicker?

Yes, they can. They may have received a letter inviting them to make an appointment to receive their Covid Vaccine at their GP or local vaccination centre. If your child has not had their vaccine you can call 119 or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

If you would like to talk to the School Aged Immunisation team about this, or any other vaccination programme, please contact the team on 0191 2934285 / 01912934291

How do I receive proof of my child's vaccine?

You will need to download the NHS app and complete a form with your GP to link your child's NHS number with your own. You will then be able to see vaccination date on the app.