

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In line with the guidance from the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) the COVID-19 vaccination programme for healthy 12 to 15 year olds in the UK consists of two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

Please be aware:

- 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 a positive PCR/lateral flow test.
- The 2nd dose of the COVID-19 vaccine has to be given a minimum of 12 weeks after the initial dose and cannot be given before.

How do I give consent for the COVID-19 Vaccination?

Complete the steps below, before the closing date and time, to consent for your child to have the COVID-19 vaccination.

Please be aware, even if you have previously provided consent, you will need to complete a new form.

Your online consent form closes at 11am, one 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
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:** SX139668
4. **Complete and submit the consent form**, indicating your choice of consent - *Please ensure you provide the child's registered address and GP.*

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.

If you have any questions about the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme you can contact the Vaccine Enquires Team on 0800 433 4545 (open 9am – 4pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays).

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

Yours faithfully,

Immunisation Clinical Service Manager



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

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 COVID-19 test result.

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

Call the COVID-19 Schools Immunisation service on 01293 227797 (open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays) 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?

If you have not done so already, 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, however we will not vaccinate your child during the school visit, and we will follow up after the session to discuss the options in more detail.

What if my child wants the vaccination but, as a parent / guardian, we would rather they didn't have it?

If you do not want your child to have this vaccination, 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.

What happens if I've given consent for my child to have the vaccine but they refused it on the day?

If your child refuses to have the vaccine, we will not vaccinate at the school. 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 give the reason for this and contain details of how to book into a catch-up clinic.

What happens if one parent/carer consents but the other doesn't?

If we receive two forms with one consenting and another not giving consent we will not vaccinate your child in the school clinic. 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 give the reason for this and contain details of how to book into a catch-up clinic.

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

You must contact the Sussex 0-19 Immunisation Service to change your consent and inform your child's school, by putting this in writing, prior to the day of the vaccination.

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.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

On the day of vaccination

Your child should wear clothes that allow the nurses to access the top of the arm, such as a short sleeve shirt or 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 vaccine has undergone rigorous safety testing before being licensed for use in the UK. It is a well-established vaccine with a known safety profile, and like all other vaccines, unwanted reactions are constantly monitored. Information around the vaccine is available from www.sussexhealthandcare.uk