Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust
0-19 Sussex Immunisation Service
Brighton General Hospital
Elm Grove
Brighton
BN2 3EW

Dear Parent/Guardian,

National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme for 12 to 15 year olds

Vaccination is one of the most successful Public Health interventions giving protection against potentially fatal diseases for the whole of our population.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme for healthy 12 to 15 year olds in the UK consists of one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The vaccine is to be offered in schools, to pupils as part of the national COVID-19 vaccination plan. There is a different process for clinically vulnerable children aged 12 to 15, who should have already been invited to be vaccinated by their GP. If your child has already been vaccinated because they are clinically vulnerable, or lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable, they will not be vaccinated again within the school as part of the current programme

The COVID-19 vaccination is not currently available for healthy 12 to 15 year olds in local vaccination centres – the vaccination session in your child's school is the earliest date to get your child vaccinated. A catch-up service for students who are not in school the day of vaccination is being planned and information will be available on the Sussex COVID-19 Vaccination Programme website: www.sussexhealthandcare.uk

Contained within this letter are some frequently asked questions and useful information about the COVID-19 vaccination. Further information is available at www.sussexhealthandcare.uk 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).

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. **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.sussexim munisations.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: SX126108**
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.

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 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. Please be aware we will not be able to do this after the closing date and time for online forms. In the majority of cases this will be 1 working days before the planned school session date.

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, 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 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. We are awaiting national guidance on children self-consenting for COVID-19 vaccination and this will be available here www.sussexhealthandcare.uk

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 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 advise of the reason for this and contain details of how to book into a 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 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 advise of 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.

My child has another vaccine booked in, can they still have their COVID Vaccine?

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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 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