

September 9 2021

FAQS: COVID-19 Vaccination for eligible 12-15 year olds

Why can't I get my child vaccinated at your practice?

Our practice joined the vaccination programme in [MONTH], and we have helped the local NHS deliver well over a million vaccinations. At this moment in time, we are not offering the COVID-19 vaccine at our practice, which is why we cannot invite your child to have their vaccine at our surgery.

We are working closely with the CCG to ensure that all of our eligible 12-15 year old patients can access the vaccine safely. All parents/carers of eligible children will shortly receive a letter from the GP Practice with details of where they can be vaccinated.

Where can they be vaccinated?

If the child/young person attends a special school in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, you will be contacted by their school offering a date for vaccination in the school setting in September 2021. Consent and medical screening paperwork will be sent to you to complete and return on the day of vaccination.

Otherwise from, 10 September 2021, they can walk-in without booking to one of the large scale Vaccination Centres, across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. All patients aged 12-15 should be accompanied to receive their vaccine by someone with parental responsibility. Patients aged 12-15 will be required to present their GP letter when attending a Mass Vaccination Centre as proof of eligibility. Dedicated clinics for 12-15 year olds are not possible at large scale Vaccination Sites, however an allocated space/Pod will be available specifically for 12-15yr olds. For details of available sites, please look here: <https://www.thevaccinators.co.uk/>

If you are concerned that your child/young person will not cope with the large scale vaccination centre environment and they do not attend a special school, please contact us on ccs.covidmassvacs@nhs.net and the large scale vaccination team will explore with you how they might best be supported.

Can I access travel support to help me get me and my child to the vaccination appointment?

Yes. If you need travel support to help you and your child attend the vaccination appointment, you can arrange this by calling the Local Authorities' travel support team via 0345 045 5219.

How do I know the vaccine is safe for my child?

The JCVI has reviewed extensive clinical evidence for the safety of giving the COVID-19 vaccine to children and young people in the eligible groups and have determined it to be safe and effective. The JCVI has determined that the benefit of vaccinating children in these groups outweighs the risks.

Do I need to be present for my child's vaccination?

Yes, if your child is aged 12-15 you or another legal guardian will need to be present for their vaccination in order to give consent for the vaccination.

You will be required to present the letter you have received from your GP practice when attending for appointment as proof of the child's eligibility.

Why isn't my child eligible?

The NHS vaccinates in line with guidance from the independent JCVI (Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation), which provides expert advice on vaccinations to UK health departments. The JCVI recommends that only certain groups of children and young people are vaccinated because of a combination of factors including their risk of getting seriously ill from coronavirus, passing it to others who may become seriously ill, and evidence of safety and effectiveness.

Where can I find further information about COVID-19 vaccinations for 12-15 year olds

There are a number of patient information leaflets and videos available:

General information leaflet:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1010600/PHE_12073_COVID-19_guide_for_CYP_leaflet.pdf

General information leaflet (easyread):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1013193/PHE_12124_COVID-19_vaccination_for_at_risk_CYP_simple_text_leaflet.pdf (EASY READ)

There is also a short, animated video which talks through the vaccination process:

<https://vimeo.com/593239243/701ff053cf>