



UK Health
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Vaccination UK

NHS
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Guidance for schools on the Covid vaccination programme for pupils 12 to 15 years of age

12th October 2021

Dear Headteacher,

Thank you for your support in the Covid vaccination programme. The announcement that 12 – 15-year-old pupils would be offered the Covid vaccine was made at a busy time for schools, and we recognise that it has been a challenge to accommodate this programme into an already hectic timetable. Both Vaccination UK and Whittington NHS Trust are grateful for the assistance you have provided to enable its mobilisation.

Over the past week there have been several queries raised by schools regarding this programme. The purpose of this letter is to try and offer some clarity on the issues that have been raised.

The first issue we would like to address is the capacity of the vaccination team that will be visiting your school. Unfortunately, due to the availability of workforce the maximum number of vaccinations that the team can deliver in a day is 300. With this in mind, the decision has been taken to prioritise the older cohort first. Therefore, children aged 15 will be the first pupils vaccinated. Thereafter 14-, 13- and 12-year-olds will be vaccinated in descending order to a daily cap of 300. Where 300 vaccinations are scheduled to be given in a day the immunisation team from Whittington NHS Trust will aim to be on site at 9:30 to start vaccinating and will administer approximately 60 Covid vaccinations an hour. The vaccination team that visits your school to deliver this will likely be larger than the school vaccination team you may be used to, so please be prepared to accommodate a larger clinical team.

We appreciate that the cap of 300 vaccinations may cause anxiety and some frustration amongst your parents but regrettably this is the capacity of the workforce we have available for the delivery of this programme. Rest assured we are committed to ensuring that all children for whom a consent form has been returned are vaccinated. To this end we would like to work with you to ensure that no child misses out on the vaccination to which they are entitled. When we are aware that more than 300 consent forms have been returned, we will offer you a second vaccination date as close to the original session as possible. If your school is unable to support a second vaccination date, there will be an alternative pathway available to any children who have missed their Covid vaccinations. Once national guidance has been released confirming the other pathways available to your pupils, we will issue further guidance to you.

We have also become aware that there has been some confusion around the e-consent process. Parents will have received an invitation letter which contains embedded links to nationally produced information regarding the Covid vaccination programme for 12 – 15 year olds. For your information, these links are included at the foot of this letter. The parent letter also contains a link to the e-consent platform. The consent process closes at midnight two working days prior to the first vaccination session taking place. i.e: if your session is scheduled to take place on a Thursday it will close at midnight on Monday. If your session is taking place on a Monday, consent will close at midnight on Wednesday. Once the consent window has closed Vaccination UK nurses will then triage the consent forms and generate a list of pupils at your school who have returned one. This list will be shared with you and Whittington Health staff the morning before the vaccination team will visit your school.



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Please be aware that the consent process will only be opened once for each school. After the consent process has closed it will not be reopened and parents will not be able to submit a consent form for any subsequent sessions that take place.

We have also been asked if paper consents can be offered to some pupils. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer a mixed model at this stage. All consent must take place via the e-consent platform. Whilst we recognise that not all families have ready access to electronic devices such as laptops, the e-consent can be completed using a tablet or mobile device. Some schools may choose to offer some time for parents to come onto the school premises to complete consent using school IT equipment. This has been used to good effect in other schools we have been working with.

[COVID-19 vaccination programme for young people: guidance for parents](#)

[COVID-19 vaccination – A guide for children and young people](#)

We hope this letter helps to clarify some things for you regarding the processes that are in place to assist your 12 – 15 year old students to get the COVID vaccination.

Best Wishes,

Amanda Schiller
Clinical Director,
Vaccination UK