

11 October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

We know how much disruption to school and home life COVID-19 has had on our young people, and so this autumn, all children aged 12 - 15 years are being offered one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. This decision is based on the recommendations from the UK's Chief Medical Officers (CMOs).

One dose of the vaccine will provide good protection against severe illness and hospitalisation. Very few healthy children and young people with COVID-19 infection go on to have severe illness, but vaccinating secondary school children (12-15 years old) should help to reduce the need for them to have time off school, disrupting face to face learning and reduces the risk of the spread of COVID-19 within school settings.

The vaccination programme will be delivered within Wolverhampton secondary schools (including secondary schools, special schools, PRU's, independent and private) by our skilled and experienced School Aged Immunisation Service in partnership with Walsall Healthcare and the Public Health and Education teams at City of Wolverhampton Council.

We understand that this may be an anxious time for you when considering if your child or children should have the vaccine and that you may have some questions. Prior to the vaccination, children and young people, and you as parents or guardians, will be offered advice and information on the vaccine including information around consent. The COVID-19 vaccination programme is voluntary, although we do encourage as many young people to take the vaccine as possible.

We are working closely to co-ordinate the vaccine programme for delivery in Wolverhampton secondary schools and are pulling together a timetable for school visits with the aim to have vaccinated as many children as possible by mid-November.

If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 in the 28 days prior to the vaccination date, they will be unable to have the vaccine. Arrangements will be made for a vaccine to be administered at a later date.

If your child is in year 7 at secondary school but has not yet reached their twelfth birthday, they are not currently eligible for the vaccination. Once they become 12 they can then be vaccinated (either in school when the team comes or through a local clinic). More information on how they can get their vaccine will be made available soon.

Children and young people aged 12 to 15 years who are at increased risk from infection or are living with someone who may be at increased risk, have already been offered two doses of the vaccine, eight weeks apart. There will be an opportunity to be vaccinated in school if they have not already taken up this offer.

Detailed information on the vaccine will be provided to pupils and families by the team providing the vaccination, to help you make an informed decision. In the meantime, a frequently asked questions document can be found online;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents>

**At this time you do not need to do anything else. You do not need contact the NHS or your GP to arrange the vaccine. The School Aged Immunisation Service will be in touch when provision is in place for your child or children to receive the vaccine so please wait until you hear from us.**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we roll-out this programme.

Yours sincerely



**Emma Bennett**  
Executive Director of Families



**John Denley**  
Director of Public Health