



Headteacher Headlines – COVID vaccination special

Updated COVID guidance for 12 to 15 year olds

The JCVI guidance has changed and it is now preferable that healthy 12 to 15 year olds receive their vaccine 12 weeks after a positive test. If a child has had a positive COVID-19 test and are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, they should wait for at least 4 weeks from the date of their positive test and until they are recovered to receive their vaccination. This change has been made because in younger people, protection from natural infection is likely to be high for a period of months, and vaccination in those recently infected may increase the chance of side effects.

Before vaccination teams can give any 12-15-year-olds their vaccine they will be asked whether they had COVID since the beginning of term, to see if they qualify for vaccination or will have to wait. We will aim to send updated lists of students to your schools ahead of time so that you are aware of those students needing their vaccine, and if your capacity permits, you can note which students may fall under the above criteria and will therefore not need to be brought to the Children's Immunisation team session for their vaccination.

'Evergreen' offer for COVID

As per the NHS 'evergreen' offer, if we are attending your school for a second session, we are required to re-open the consent portal so that any students/parents who have changed their mind and wish to now receive the vaccine, or may no longer want the vaccine, can consent. We monitor the number of consents daily so that we can provide appropriate levels of staffing and keep you up to date of how many students will need vaccinating.

We encourage parents to use the portal to change a 'yes' consent to 'no' where their child has had covid in the last 12 weeks or has already received their vaccination. This allows us to better understand how many students require vaccinating when we attend.

Session structure

We recognise it is really challenging for schools to identify which students need their vaccinations ahead of the immunisation session. We therefore recommend that rather than scheduling your student's appointment times, you use the list we provide you and bring students down in class groups. If you would like to offer extended school hours for students to receive their vaccinations, please contact Abbe Robertson (Associate Director of Operations for CSAIS) abbe.robertson1@nhs.net, so that we can progress this if possible.

Second visits for covid vaccines

All schools in Norfolk will have received a first visit from the Children's immunisation team by the end of December. Several students have been unable to have their vaccination due to the challenges we have had in staffing sessions where significant numbers of students have consented. We have worked with the CCG, Commissioners, and Public Health to identify those schools needing a second visit in December before the end of term. Due to minimal school days available before the end of term we have prioritised those schools with high numbers of students still requiring vaccinating, those areas where mass vaccination sites are not readily accessible and those schools with high 'attack rates'. We will be in contact in the next week to confirm a suitable date with you.

Students can continue to attend any mass vaccination centres. There have been additional appointments and walk in sessions arranged which will commence from 29th Nov. Details of local sites can be found here <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/WalkIn/>

To book an appointment, please use this link [Book or manage a 1st or 2nd dose of the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine](#)



On behalf of the HCT Children's Immunisation Team, we wish to say thank you for your support of the programme during this challenging time for your schools, students and teachers.