

Vaccination of children and young people

Earlier this week, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) issued new advice recommending that children aged 12 or older who are at increased risk of serious COVID-19 disease are offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. (This is the only vaccine currently authorised in the UK for under 18s). This includes children aged 12 to 15 with severe neurodisabilities, Down's syndrome, immunosuppression and multiple or severe learning disabilities.

The JCVI has also recommended that children and young people aged 12 to 17 who live with an immunosuppressed person should be offered the vaccine to indirectly protect their immunosuppressed household contacts. However, based on the current evidence available, they are not advising routine vaccination of children outside of these groups.

The NHS is putting arrangements in place to provide vaccinations for these children and will be contacting families as soon as possible with information on how to get a vaccination. Please wait to be contacted rather than calling your GP practice or attending a local vaccination service, as they will not be able to offer vaccinations until these arrangements have been finalised.

ENDS