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26th November 2021

Dear Buckinghamshire Secondary Headteachers,

COVID vaccinations for children and young people

Thank you for all your hard work to support the young people and education staff of Buckinghamshire in the face of continuing challenges posed by COVID-19.

Due to some recent changes in the eligibility for COVID vaccines, we wanted to outline the current national position to support you in any ongoing conversations you may be having with young people and that can be shared with parents. This advice may be subject to change in future – a summary of up to date information can be found at:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccines - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

12 – 17 year olds

The majority of 12-15 year olds are currently recommended to receive one dose of vaccine. The decision on whether a second dose will be recommended to this group has not yet been announced.

The majority of 16 and 17 year olds are now recommended to receive two doses of vaccine at least 12 weeks apart.

If a young person aged 12-17 has recently tested positive for COVID it is now recommended that they wait 12 weeks from the date of their first positive PCR or LFD result before they receive their COVID vaccine. This delay has recently been increased from 4 weeks due to emerging evidence suggesting that it will reduce the (already extremely small) risk of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) in younger age groups and because they are likely to be protected by natural immunity for these 12 weeks anyway.

12-17 year olds who are in a recognised clinical risk group should receive two doses of vaccine at least 8 weeks apart. Those aged 12 years and over who live with someone of any age who is immunosuppressed should also be offered two doses of vaccine at least 8 weeks apart. Young people in these groups should still take up their vaccine offer if they are at least 4 weeks after COVID infection and do not need to wait 12 weeks. This is because their individual risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 is higher and so outweighs any benefit of delaying to 12 weeks.

Aged 18 and over

Adults aged 18 and over are recommended to receive two doses of vaccine at least 8 weeks apart.

If an adult (aged 18+) has recently tested positive for COVID it is recommended that they wait 4 weeks from the date of their first positive PCR or LFD result before they receive their COVID vaccine.

Accessing vaccination

The initial offer of COVID vaccinations in schools has now completed. However, there continue to be many opportunities to access vaccinations across the county:

- Anyone aged 12 and over can book an appointment through the National Booking Service.
[Book or manage your coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
- Walk-in clinics are also available and details can be found here:
[Find a walk-in coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination site - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

12-15 year olds in a clinical risk group should receive a letter to inform them of their eligibility for a second dose, and should take this letter with them to any walk-in vaccination site. If they do not receive this letter but their parent/guardian thinks that they are eligible, or if they live with someone who is immunosuppressed, their GP surgery should be contacted.

Vaccination against COVID-19 remains the best way to protect ourselves and those around us from becoming unwell.

It is also important that people who are eligible, including children aged 2-15 years old and anyone between the ages of 6 months and 50 years old who are clinically vulnerable take up the offer of a free NHS flu vaccine this year as the best way of protecting ourselves and those around us from seasonal influenza.

Thank you again for all your hard work.

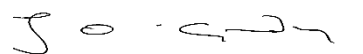
Yours faithfully,



Kate Holmes –
Interim CFO, Buckinghamshire CCG
Chair Bucks Vaccine Cell



Simon James –
Service Director: Education
Buckinghamshire Council



Jane O'Grady –
Director of Public Health
Buckinghamshire Council