

16 May 2022

Dear Parents

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update: Vaccination offer to all 5 to 11-year-olds**

Vaccinations have protected our children and young people from serious infection for many years, saving many thousands of lives as well as preventing serious long term ill health.

The COVID-19 vaccine is the most recent vaccine which can protect children from illness.

We all want to get back to normal – but the fact is that COVID-19 is still very much active and causing some children to miss out on their education and other activities.

As well as protecting against serious COVID infection, and Long Covid by getting vaccinated, children can also reduce the risk of passing on the infection to their family and friends.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommends that all 5–11-year-olds are offered the COVID-19 vaccine, (which has been approved by the UK's medicines regulator), to boost immunity and increase their protection against any future waves of COVID-19.

The Northamptonshire COVID-19 Vaccination Programme wants to support families to make an informed choice, which is why we have provided links to further information and resources at the bottom of this page.

Children aged 5-11 with no other underlying health conditions will be offered two paediatric (child) doses of the vaccine, with at least 12 weeks between doses. A paediatric dose is smaller than doses given to those aged 12 and over.

If a child has had COVID-19 they will still get extra protection from the vaccine, but they will need to wait 12 weeks from the start of their infection before getting vaccinated.

Children with underlying health conditions who have had COVID-19 will need to wait for 4 weeks from the start of their infection before getting vaccinated.

#### **To access a vaccination parents and carers can:**

- Book an appointment online via the [national NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Booking Service](#) or by calling 119.
- Find a drop-in vaccination clinic near you where no appointment is required – please visit [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/covidvaccine](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/covidvaccine) for information on the latest participating sites.

#### **Guidance for children who have recently tested positive for COVID-19**

Please note that the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommends:

- Children aged 5 to 11 years will need to wait for 12 weeks following a positive test for COVID-19 before having their first or second COVID-19 vaccination
- Children aged 5 to 11 years who are at increased risk, should wait 4 weeks (28 days) from a positive test result, before having their vaccine.

You many have seen unfounded comments on social media about the safety of vaccinating children and been unsettled by these. While this is understandable that parents and guardians are concerned about their most treasured loved ones, please be reassured that all vaccines have been subject to rigorous evaluation before they are used.

If you feel in need of reassurance you may wish to refer to the information below or consult with your family doctor, health visitor or practice nurse'. Our vaccination staff are also happy to have a conversation with you.

Getting vaccinated could make a huge difference in protecting your child and others they come in to contact with.

Kind regards

## **Northamptonshire's COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**

### **Further information:**

- [COVID-19: A guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90121/covid-19-a-guide-for-parents-of-children-aged-5-to-11.pdf)
- [What to expect after your child's COVID vaccination – A guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years of age \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90122/what-to-expect-after-your-child-s-covid-vaccination-a-guide-for-parents-of-children-aged-5-to-11-years-of-age.pdf)
- [COVID-19 vaccinations: A guide for parents of children aged 5-11 years of age at high risk \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90123/covid-19-vaccinations-a-guide-for-parents-of-children-aged-5-11-years-of-age-at-high-risk.pdf)
- [COVID-19 vaccination: consent form for children and young people or parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90124/covid-19-vaccination-consent-form-for-children-and-young-people-or-parents.pdf)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for parents of 5 to 11 year olds](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90125/frequently-asked-questions-for-parents-of-5-to-11-year-olds.pdf)