

## COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5 – 15 who are at high risk - FAQs

### Brighton & Hove

Key information about the COVID-19 vaccination for families of children aged 5 – 15 and children who are [at high risk from COVID-19](#).

#### 1. Who is eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccination?

##### Children aged 5 to 11 who are at high risk or living with someone who is immunosuppressed

Some children aged 5 to 11 are eligible for a first and second dose of the vaccine if they are considered to be at [high risk from COVID-19](#), if either:

- They have a condition that means they're at high risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19, including:
  - severe neurodisabilities
  - immunosuppression - those whose immune systems don't work as well and those who live with someone who is immunosuppressed
  - profound and multiple or severe learning disabilities
  - being on the learning disability register
  - those with Down's syndrome
  - those with long term serious conditions affecting their body.

Your child will become eligible for their second dose 8 weeks after their first vaccination. If you are unsure about whether your child is eligible under these categories, and have not yet been contacted, please contact your GP.

##### Children aged 12 to 15 who are at high risk or living with someone who is immunosuppressed

Children aged between 12 and 15 who are [at high risk from COVID-19](#) or are living with someone who is immunosuppressed are eligible for a first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Children in this age group are considered to be high risk if:

- they have a condition that means they're at high risk from COVID-19, including:
  - a severe neurological condition/diagnosis, such as cerebral palsy
  - Down's syndrome
  - severe or multiple learning disabilities (or they're on the learning disability register)

- a condition that means they're more likely to get infections (such as some genetic conditions or types of cancer)
- they live with someone who is more likely to get infections due to severe immunosuppression:

(Such as people who had or may recently have had:

- a blood cancer such as leukaemia or lymphoma
- a weakened immune system due to a treatment, such as steroid medicine, biological therapy sometimes called immunotherapy, chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- an organ or bone marrow transplant
- a condition that means you have a very high risk of getting infections
- a condition or treatment your specialist advises makes you eligible for a third dose)

Your child will become eligible for a second dose from 8 weeks after their first vaccination. This is four weeks **earlier** than the gap for the wider group of children aged 12 to 15.

If your child has had COVID-19 in the last 12 weeks, they should wait at least 4 weeks on from the first positive PCR test or the day symptoms started.

Children who have had a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose at least 3 months ago can also get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

### **Healthy children aged 12 to 15**

All children aged 12 to 15 are eligible for a first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (including children who turn 12 on the date of vaccination).

Healthy children aged 12 to 15 are eligible for a second dose 12 weeks after their first vaccination.

If your child has had COVID-19 in the last 12 weeks, they can receive a vaccination 12 weeks on from the first positive PCR test or the day symptoms started.

### **Healthy children aged 5 – 11**

On 16 February, the government [announced that all 5 to 11 year olds will be offered the COVID-19 vaccination.](#)

This follows a recommendation from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that all 5 to 11 year olds should be offered two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech paediatric vaccine.

In Sussex we have been discussing the potential for this age group to be offered the vaccination and have been working to develop plans for local delivery.

This is not yet live, and there will be further national announcements of when this vaccination will be offered. Parents are urged not to contact their GP practice to ask about these vaccinations; more information will be shared soon.

## 2. How can my child's vaccination be arranged?

### Children aged 12 to 15 who are at [high risk from COVID-19](#) or live with someone who is immunosuppressed

Children who are at [high risk from COVID-19](#) will be offered a vaccination in an alternative location to their school. For those living in Brighton and Hove this is Brighton Racecourse.

Your local vaccination service will be notified by your GP if/when your child is eligible. There will be regular checks of the GP registered lists to make sure children who turn 12 are added to the list. If you have not received an invitation but you think your child is at high risk and eligible for a vaccine, please contact your GP surgery.

### Children aged 5 to 11 who are at [high risk from COVID-19](#)

Your local vaccination service will be notified by your GP if/when your child is eligible. There will be regular checks of the GP registered lists to make sure children who turn 5 are added to the list. If you have not received an invitation but you think your child is at high risk and eligible for a vaccine, please contact your GP surgery.

### Healthy children aged 12 - 15

- **School visit** - parents/carers will receive direct communication from your child's school to share the date of the planned visit and share consent forms;
- **Booked appointments** – appointments for 12-15 year olds can also be booked on the National Booking Service [website](#) and by calling 119 if your child misses their school session.
- **Walk-in vaccination sessions** – walk-in sessions are taking place across our communities. You don't need an appointment, and you can simply turn up to receive your vaccination. [See a list of 12 – 15 walk in sessions in Sussex](#) – children must be accompanied by a parent/carer who can provide consent.

## 3. Where will my child be vaccinated if they are in a high-risk group?

### Children aged 12 to 15 who are at high risk

- At your local vaccination service – for Brighton and Hove, this is Brighton Racecourse vaccination centre

- At a [specified walk-in vaccination session](#) – please bring your child’s invitation letter/text message to show their eligibility
- At home for others in exceptional circumstances

#### **Children aged 5 to 11 who are at high risk**

- At your local vaccination service - for Brighton and Hove, this is Brighton Racecourse vaccination centre
- At home for others in exceptional circumstances

#### **Healthy children aged 12 – 15**

- At your child’s school
- At your local NHS vaccination service – (booked via National Booking Service [website](#) or 119)
- At a [specified walk-in vaccination session](#) - please bring your child’s invitation letter/text message to show their eligibility.

### **4. Will there be parking and blue badge access?**

There are parking facilities at Brighton Racecourse vaccination centre. Parking marshals are on site at all times to direct you when you arrive at the entrance.

The Brighton Racecourse booking team will ask you if you have any access requirements when you book your appointment. Upon arrival if you have specific needs, please ask a marshal when you arrive.

Where possible we try to ensure blue badge access is available at our community sites.

### **5. My child has additional needs, will the service be suitable for my child?**

Our vaccinators have undergone additional training and have experience in vaccinating children with additional needs.

Our Learning Disabilities team has inspected each site to ensure reasonable adjustments are in place at all our services. This includes support with disabilities, needle phobias and ensuring there is clear signage.

When booking your appointment you will be asked some questions and have the opportunity to explain what your child will need to ensure their needs are met. Interpreting and sign language services are available if requested when booking.

### **6. How long will the appointment take?**

Your appointment should take no longer than 30 minutes. Each appointment is arranged 10 minutes apart so that you/your child can take your time and do not feel rushed.

You may be required to wait for 15 minutes after your child's vaccination.

### **7. I think my child is in an at risk group but I have not yet had an invitation, what should I do?**

If you think your child is eligible but you have not yet been contacted, please contact your GP in the first instance.

If you have further enquiries, you can also contact the vaccine enquiry team, please note the vaccine enquiries team cannot book your child's appointment but can advise on any queries or questions:

- Phone: 0800 433 4545 (open 9am – 4pm, Monday to Friday)
- Email: [sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net)

### **8. We missed the appointment when my child was first invited, how can I arrange an appointment?**

If your child is eligible, you can arrange an appointment for their vaccination at any time.

Contact the Brighton Racecourse booking team to arrange your appointment: 0300 303 8060

If you missed your original appointment, you can rebook by contacting the Brighton Racecourse Booking team: 0300 303 8060

### **9. How can I contact the Brighton Racecourse/Booking team?**

Brighton Racecourse Booking line – 0300 303 8060

### **10. What if we have further questions?**

If you have a question about COVID-19 vaccinations in Sussex, please take a look at our [frequently asked questions](#) page or see the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#) for information on vaccinations for children and young people.

If you can't find the answer, please contact the Vaccine Enquiries Team:

- Email us at [sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net)
- Call us on our vaccine enquiry phone line: 0800 433 4545 (open 9am – 4pm, Monday to Friday).

### **Other helpful materials:**

- [COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for eligible children and young people \(print version\)](#)
- [Information for children and young people on what to expect after COVID-19 vaccination \(print version\)](#)
- [Information for parents about what to expect after your child's COVID-19 vaccination \(print version\)](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination for at-risk children and young people aged 12 to 15 years \(simple text print version\)](#)