

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CCGs' Headquarters

First Floor  
Staffordshire Place 2  
Stafford  
ST16 2LP

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Dear parent

## Flu and COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 12 to 15 years of age

We have started to offer COVID-19 and flu vaccinations in schools as part of the School Aged Immunisation Programme (SAIS).

Three immunisation options are being offered – flu vaccine only, flu and COVID-19 vaccines or a COVID-19 vaccine only.

### Consent forms

We will not vaccinate children without parental consent. Please return all consent forms to the school, even if you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccine.

- e-consent for the flu vaccination - *links will be sent to parents via email from the school*
- paper consent form for COVID-19 vaccination – *your child will come home from school with a paper consent form, please return as quickly as possible, with a yes or no. If no consent is given, no vaccine will be given on the day.*

On vaccination day, only children with consent as above will be offered a flu vaccine and/or COVID-19 vaccination.

In some unforeseen circumstances we may have to cancel and rearrange your child's vaccination due to limited capacity. Where possible we will try to provide you with three days of notice that the session is cancelled or reduced. If this happens, the school will be notified of the change, and offered a revised or an additional date.

Following reports from several schools in our area, we are aware that you may have been emailed a fake consent checklist for COVID-19. This is NOT from the NHS and is NOT GENUINE. It contains inaccurate and misleading information.

We want to ensure that you have all the information you need and answer any questions that you have, including those surrounding consent. Please find an FAQ attached. If you have any specific questions that are not included in the FAQ, please visit <https://www.twbstaffsandstoke.org.uk/coronavirus/12-15-year-olds> or email [twb.comms@nhs.net](mailto:twb.comms@nhs.net).



Dr Paddy Hannigan  
Clinical Lead  
COVID-19 Vaccination  
Programme



Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones  
Director of Adult Social Care,  
Health Integration and Wellbeing  
City of Stoke-on-Trent



Dr Richard Harling  
Director of Health and Care  
Staffordshire County  
Council

## Flu and COVID-19 12-15 vaccinations FAQ

### **How will I know which vaccinations are going to be given?**

The information we ask your child's school to send you tells you which vaccinations are taking place. This year, the national flu programme has been extended and is being offered to all students up to and including year 11. The COVID-19 vaccination programme is being offered to all 12–15-year-olds.

### **Which COVID-19 vaccine will my child receive?**

The Pfizer BioNTech vaccine.

### **How will the COVID-19 vaccine be given to my child?**

The COVID-19 vaccine is an intramuscular injection that will be given in the left or right upper arm.

### **Can the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations be given together?**

For most children and young people, flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be given together (co-administered) – the flu vaccine as a nasal spray or injection and COVID-19 vaccine as an injection. It is safe to do this. Having both vaccines together reduces disruption to your child and their school.

If we have already been to your child's school and given them the flu spray or flu injection, we will arrange to go back to school and do another session for their COVID-19 vaccination. Only children whose parents have consented separately for both flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be given these together. In some circumstances the SAIS may deliver COVID-19 only in the first session and then arrange a follow up session for Flu vaccination.

### **How will I know when my child's vaccination will take place?**

The School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) team sends information to your child's school for them to forward to you, on our behalf.

### **Will I have to consent for my child to have the vaccinations or will it just be given?**

The vaccination will only be given to your child with consent from the person who has parental responsibility for them. In the information we send you via the school, we ask you to tell us whether you do or do not want your child to be vaccinated.

We will be asking you to consent (or not) for either flu vaccine alone, flu and COVID-19 vaccines together, or the COVID-19 vaccine alone, on separate consent forms.

- e-consent for the flu vaccination - *links will be sent to parents via email from the school*
- paper consent form for COVID-19 vaccination – *this will be a paper consent form. Your child will come home from school with a paper consent form, please return as quickly as possible, with a yes or no. If no consent is given, no vaccine will be given.*

### **What should I do if my child is ill after the vaccine – do they still go to school?**

If your child has a sore arm or any of the usual mild symptoms, they should still attend school. If you are worried about any symptoms your child may have, please refer to the information your child brings home or call NHS 111.

**My child was off sick, or the school clinic did not go ahead, what will happen now?**

For the COVID-19 vaccination, if your child has missed out at school or the session has had to be re-arranged then please be assured follow up sessions will be re-arranged either at the school or at a local community clinic. All details will be sent to you as soon as these are confirmed. Your local GP or pharmacist cannot vaccinate your child for COVID-19 unless they are clinically vulnerable so, please do not contact them.

This is national guidance and if this changes, we will send this with you.

For flu vaccine, follow-up clinics will be available in the community and the SAIS team will advise when these will be.

**I want my child to have the vaccine, but they are afraid of needles – can I take them to the GP?**

Most young people want to be vaccinated with their school friends and classmates. The SAIS team delivers vaccines to thousands of children and young people every year.

They are very skilled and supportive of children who are worried or scared. Please tell us if your child is concerned about needles when you complete the form so we can look after them in school.

**My child has recently had COVID-19 – can they have the vaccine?**

If your child has had COVID-19 more than 28 days before the vaccination day, they can have the vaccine. If they are not eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when the SAIS visit the school, they will be offered an alternative appointment.

**I am a foster carer – can I consent to the vaccine for the child I care for?**

The consent for a child or young person to receive a vaccine needs to be from someone who has delegated authority to give permission for immunisations. If you do not have this, you will need to speak with the child's social worker to arrange this.

**Will you still vaccinate my child for COVID-19 if I as a parent say no?**

No. If you indicate on the form that you do not want your child to be COVID-19 vaccinated on the day, we will not vaccinate your child.

It is important that you discuss the vaccination with your child beforehand to avoid any problems and that you complete the consent form indicating your decision. There is the option for children and young people to consent for themselves using a strong legal framework, but this is not being used in these sessions.

Should your child indicate that they wish to be vaccinated and you have said no, we will arrange an opportunity for both you and your child to discuss this with a clinician at a later date. If you and your child change your mind and would like to go ahead with vaccination at a later date, this can be arranged a local venue.

**Where do the vaccinations take place?**

Both COVID-19 and flu vaccinations take place at school and within the normal school day.

**I want my child to have the flu vaccine but not COVID-19 – can I do this?**

Yes, when you receive the information we send you via the school, please complete both consent forms indicating your choice. If you want us to give the flu vaccination, state 'yes' to the e-consent, and if you don't want us to give the COVID-19 vaccination please state 'no' on the paper consent.

The COVID-19 and flu vaccination programmes are separate and individual consent is required for each.

**I have a child who is in this age group but is immunosuppressed or clinically extremely vulnerable – can they get a COVID-19 vaccine with the other 12-15s on the day?**

Yes, we will offer a first vaccination through the SAIS team if we have consent from the person with parental responsibility for your child. You will receive a consent form so that you can indicate your preference for your child.

Your child will need a second vaccination after eight weeks. Currently we expect this second dose to be given through GPs, although this may change in the future.

If your child is considered healthy (not immunosuppressed), they will be given one vaccination only.

**One of my children is 16 and eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. Can he join with the younger children to get vaccinated as well?**

We will be offering vaccinations to 16-year-olds along with the rest of their class. At 16, young people can give consent themselves, so a consent form is not needed.

**Can my 11-year-old have the vaccine?**

No, the vaccine can only be able to be given to children and young people aged 12 and over.

**Where can I find more information about the COVID-19 vaccination?**

For more details visit:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools>

**Where can I find more about vaccinating 12–15-year-olds against COVID-19?**

For further details around offering COVID-19 vaccination to 12–15-year-olds visit:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents>