



School Immunisation Team 3 Station Road Pill Bristol BS20 0AB

27th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 School Immunisation Programme

This autumn, we are offering all children aged 12 to 15 the COVID-19 vaccine as part of the School Immunisation Programme. This letter explains why children are being offered these vaccines and explains how to let us know whether or not you would like your child to be vaccinated.

Children aged 12 to 15 are being offered the vaccinations to protect them from coronavirus, minimise the circulation of the virus this winter and to reduce disruption to their education, and the potential impact on the NHS. The vaccinations will be given by Sirona care & health, who run all the School Immunisation Programmes in our area and have a lot of experience vaccinating children aged 12 to 15.

The Chief Medical Officers have recommended this age group should be offered one dose of the Pfizer (also known as Comirnaty) COVID-19 vaccination.

We will be running the COVID-19 and Flu Immunisation programme together. If you consent to your child having both vaccines, they will be given at the same time. The COVID-19 vaccine will be given with an injection to a child's upper arm, while the flu vaccine is administered using a nasal spray. You can choose to consent to your child having both, one, or neither, of the vaccines.

The link to the COVID-19 consent form is below. If you don't have access to the internet, you can request a paper copy from your child's school, please complete this form to indicate whether or not you wish for your child to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Link to the COVID-19 consent form: https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/covid19/2021/consent

There are separate consent forms for the flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine. You should have already received a Flu vaccination consent form from your child's school, if you have not already done so please ensure you have also completed this, if you did not receive this link please see the link overleaf.

Service provided by:

Link to the nasal flu consent form:

https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2021/consent

Please complete both forms by 12pm the day before the vaccination clinic at your child's school. If we do not receive your completed consent forms we may contact you in order to discuss your wishes for your child.

For more information, for young people, about the COVID-19 vaccination programme for this age group please visit https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people

For more information, for parents, about the COVID-19 vaccination programme for this age group please visit https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents

For information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in our area, please visit: https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/covid-19/covid-vaccination-faqs/

For more information about the Nasal Flu vaccination programme, please visit <u>Protect</u> yourself against flu – information for those in school years 7 to 11 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

If your child is not able to attend school on the day of the Immunisation Clinic they can attend a catch-up clinic at a later date. Your school will send out information about these clinics at a later date.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact the School Immunisation Team on 01275 373104 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

Please ensure you complete both consent forms

Yours faithfully

Draws

Karen Evans

Head of Specialist Services for Children