

22 September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from the four UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs).

After a number of enquiries, we wanted to make some points clear about the programme.

Firstly, schools are solely a venue for these vaccinations. Schools are not responsible for these vaccinations. This is a programme led by the Government and being delivered by the Sussex COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, which brings together the NHS, local authorities and partners in Sussex.

If you want to know more about the roll out to 12-15 year olds in schools or have a question, the latest information is being uploaded to the Sussex Health and Care Partnership's website on [this link](#).

You will be receiving, or may have already received, a letter from your child's school from the NHS team delivering the COVID-19 vaccination sessions for 12-15 year olds in schools. In the letter there will be information about when your child's school will be visited, how the session will take place, and a link to a consent system where you can indicate whether or not you consent to your child being offered the vaccine.

Your consent will be sought through this system (or by calling the team) prior to a vaccination session in your child's school in line with existing school vaccination programmes. The only children and young people who will be vaccinated at school will be those whose parents/carers have consented and who consent themselves. Where a parent does not consent but the young person wishes to receive the vaccine, further discussions will take place with the young person outside school to understand if they are fit to make that decision for themselves (in line with current UK law on consent for medical treatment/intervention).

If you have any further questions after reading this information and the information online, please **do not** contact your child's school. Please use the Department of Education's website at [COVID-19 vaccination: resources for schools and parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools-and-parents)

You can also contact the Vaccine Enquiries Team rather than your school's team on sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net or call 0800 433 4545 (open 9am – 4pm, Monday to Friday).

Thank you for your understanding of this.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Jeffery".

Alison Jeffery
Director of Children's Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Gale".

Darrell Gale
Director of Public Health