

## **Briefing note: COVID Vaccines for children aged 12-17 years.**

1. Over the summer the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation and the Chief Medical officer have been looking at the evidence and recommendations on whether COVID vaccines should be offered to children and young people aged 12-17 years.
2. Children generally exhibit mild disease of COVID however there is a small spectrum of multisystem inflammatory disease that can have a more severe presentation in children. Whilst this is rare it is one of the key drivers for paediatricians supporting the vaccination programme.

### 3. Who will it be offered to?

The following groups will be offered two doses of the Pfizer vaccine

1. Those with severe neurodisability
2. Those with immunity problems and under a paediatrician for this
3. Those with Down syndrome
4. Those with profound and multiple learning disabilities
5. Cancer
6. Sickle cell disease
7. Type 1 diabetes
8. Heart disease
9. Poorly controlled asthma under a paediatrician, other respiratory disease (like cystic fibrosis, oxygen therapy)
10. Children or young people on high dose steroid treatment
11. Those who are household contacts of people of any age who are high risk
12. Those turning 18 in the next 3 months

12 to 17-year olds who do not fall in any of the above will be offered a single dose vaccine.

4. In Sandwell vaccinations will be rolled out by the school immunisations teams, for those not attending school should contact their GP to signpost.

### **SCT position in respect of Children in Care receiving the COVID Vaccination**

As a Trust, we have sought advice from our Designated Doctor and Named Nurse for Children in Care and based on the advice we have received, we support the vaccination programme for children aged 12-17 years

We believe that children should be able to consent if they are deemed to be Gillick Competent. They should be given information by their social worker to help them make an informed choice – the attached leaflets can support this discussion with children and with their carers.

All consent forms will be signed by the Head of Service for Children in Care as this is not a routine vaccination where consent can be given through delegated authority.

Children who choose to opt out of having the vaccine should be offered a consultation with the Named Nurse, who can explain the risks to the child. The social worker should make contact with the Named Nurse to facilitate this.

Children aged 12-17 will be offered one dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Only children in a high-risk group or living in a household where a household member is in a clinically vulnerable group (for example this could be their foster carer) will be invited for a second dose by the school nurse / their G.P.

Any queries in respect of the Covid Vaccination should be directed to Shanti Eaves, Head of Service Children in Care or Debbie Lock, Named Nurse for children in Care, Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust [debbie.lock1@nhs.net](mailto:debbie.lock1@nhs.net)