

12th January 2022

Royal Albert Edward Hospital
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 2NN

Dear parent/guardian,

COVID-19 vaccination for children and young people aged 12 to 15 years of age

As you may be aware, the government recently confirmed an extension of the COVID-19 vaccination programme to enable all children and young people aged 12 to 15 years to receive a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

This decision is based on the recommendations from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and is intended to increase protection against severe illness and hospitalisation. Vaccinating 12 to 15 year-olds will help to keep young people in school and reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools, communities and families.

Children aged 12 to 15 years attending schools in Wigan will be eligible to receive their first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccination either within the school setting or at an out of school vaccination facility. The vaccine in all cases will be the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. Children who have started year 7 in secondary school, but who had not reached their twelfth birthday during our previous visit to the school, but have since turned twelve, can receive their first dose of the COVID vaccine during our visits to administer second doses.

As with Dose 1, the vaccination programme will be delivered within local secondary schools by our skilled and experienced School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS). This is provided by Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who will be legally responsible for the programme, with oversight from the Public Health department at Wigan Council.

In addition, there are a number of local out of school routes to receiving vaccines (Dose 1 or Dose 2) for 12-17 year olds

- Primary Care Vaccination Sites – appointments can be booked by calling 01942 807780. It is hoped that this will soon be open to walk-ins, but the walk-in facility is not available yet.
- Hospital Vaccination Sites – open on a Saturday and bookable via <https://www.ft1215.nhsbookings.com/v2/>

Please note the following:

- The gap between Dose 1 and Dose 2 should be not less the 12 weeks
- The gap between a COVID-19 infection for 12-15 age group should be at least 12 weeks

We understand that this may be an anxious time for families considering whether their child or children should have the vaccine and that you may have some questions.

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

Our teams are on hand to help throughout this process.

As with the initial programme to offer first doses, we would like to ask you to give your consent for your child receiving either their first or second dose of the vaccine, as appropriate, using the Consent Form enclosed.

Please indicate your consent or otherwise by returning the attached form to the school.

By consenting you will be helping to play your part in reducing the risk of COVID-19 spreading.

The programme to vaccinate children in the school environment will not result in your child being vaccinated without your consent.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we roll-out this programme.

Your faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Deakin', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Sarah Deakin

Head of Operations Children and Families

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust (Community)