

To: All parents and carers with children
at Hackney primary maintained schools,
free schools and academies

26 April 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Covid-19 vaccination availability for children age 5 to 11

Thank you for your support over the last term to help all our schools and settings run as safely and effectively as possible, especially when Covid-19 cases were high at the start of the year.

Although all Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted in England, Covid-19 infection rates, both nationally and in Hackney, have been increasing. For the week ending 3 April, Public Health estimate that there were approximately 23,000 cases of Covid-19 in the borough.

Children aged 12-15 have been able to get Covid-19 vaccinations since Autumn 2021. We want to ensure that all our parents/carers know that this has been extended, so children aged 5 to 11 are now also eligible for 2 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Why is it important for my child to get vaccinated?

For most children & young people, COVID-19 is usually a milder illness that rarely leads to complications. It can, however, affect anyone, with some children and young people being at greater risk of severe disease than others. Vaccination, therefore, remains a really important way to increase protection against Covid-19 and reduce the spread of the virus. Being vaccinated will reduce transmission of the Covid-19 virus and protect your child from serious illness and long Covid, as well as protecting the most vulnerable. Vaccination also minimises the need for children and young people to have time off from school or college and helps them to continue to carry out hobbies, attend social events, travel abroad during the holiday period and live their lives to the full..

Who can get vaccinated?

As mentioned above, anyone over the age of 5 is now eligible to have 2 doses of the Covid-19 vaccination.



Booster vaccines can also be booked online for all individuals over the age of 16, as well as some children aged 12 to 15, who have had 2 doses of the vaccine at least 3 months ago. Evidence shows that protection from all known versions of the virus is much more effective following a booster dose

Where can my child get vaccinated?

Covid-19 vaccination appointments for anyone over the age of 5 can be booked [online](#) or by calling 119. Details of walk-in vaccination clinics can also be found at www.nhs.uk/vaccine-walk-in.

Does my child need my consent to get vaccinated?

Parental consent is required for children aged 5 to 15 and vaccination will not be undertaken unless this is given. Young people aged over 16 years old, however, can provide consent for vaccinations themselves.

How will I know if the vaccine is safe for my child?

Millions of children around the world have safely had a Covid-19 vaccine. For 5-11 year olds the vaccination dose has been adjusted for younger children.

Public Health advice is that vaccines are safe, they keep our community safe and they are our best hope for life resuming normality. As such, we are strongly recommending that all eligible children aged over 5 should be vaccinated, as the benefits of Covid-19 vaccination outweigh any negative side effects.

Where can I find more information?

Please make sure any information you share about the vaccine comes from a trusted source. The [gov.uk 5-11 vaccination website](#) has lots of resources for parents and children explaining more about the vaccine, including how to talk to your children about it, frequently asked questions and information about what to expect after vaccination. This website also includes links to information translated into a range of community languages (including, amongst others Bengali, Turkish and Yiddish).

We hope you find this information useful in helping you and your child to understand how to get vaccinated and how important vaccination is.

Yours sincerely,



Annie Gammon
Director of Education



Dr Sandra Husbands
Director of Public Health