

COVID-19 Risk Assessment: Vaccination Programme 12-15 Year Olds (All Schools)

Introduction

This risk assessment applies to all Birmingham secondary schools for the Vaccination Programme that was announced by Public Health England for commencement in September 2021. The vaccination programme will be run by the NHS with school nurses etc visiting schools to undertake the vaccinations for pupils.

The vaccination programme is intended for all pupils between the ages of 12-15.

All young people aged 12 to 15 are now eligible to have two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination. A second dose can be given 12 weeks (3 months) after the first dose. Two doses of the Pfizer vaccine will give young people the best protection against COVID-19. The medicines regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), has confirmed the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for children in this age group, following a rigorous review of the safety, quality and effectiveness of the vaccine.

Role of the School Age Immunisation Service

Vaccination for 12-15 year-olds will continue to be deployed primarily through school age immunisation services (SAIS).

During visits in the spring term, SAIS teams will be able to administer first doses to those who have not yet received any vaccination and second doses to those eligible.

SAIS teams will identify the children due to receive either first or second doses.

The SAIS provider is contractually and legally responsible for the service, as they are for other school vaccination programmes.

The school is supporting the vaccination programme by hosting the SAIS team and helping them with aspects of the vaccination process, including providing space and time in the timetable for vaccination, sharing information leaflets and consent forms and providing a list of eligible pupils.

The in-school vaccination programme for second vaccinations will start from the 10th January 2022 and all schools should have received at least one visit before February half term.

The Vaccination Programme contains the following principles:

- i) **Vaccinations to take place at the school site within core school hours (Monday to Friday)** - The programme will commence on 10th January 2022 and secondary schools are asked to set up vaccination sites in preparation to vaccinate as many pupils as possible. Schools that have made the required preparations, as identified within the Public Health/NHS guidance documentation and this risk assessment, may commence vaccinations. NHS staff will attend school sites to administer the vaccinations to eligible pupils.

Pupils will undergo a vaccination (one dose of Pfizer) within a 10-minute slot. The 15-minute observation period following vaccination has been suspended following advice from Chief Medical Officers. This will be reviewed in the longer term and schools will be updated if it is reinstated. Some pupils may wish to remain in the vaccination room for a short time before returning to class.

COVID-19 Risk Assessment: Vaccination Programme 12-15 Year Olds (All Schools)

- ii) **Parent attendance requests** – The school is unable to accommodate parents who wish to attend vaccinations with their child. Parents who wish to accompany their child are encouraged to book an appointment at a local vaccination centre.

The risks and required control measures have been identified using Public Health and NHS guidance. Our vaccination programme has also been advised to our Public Liability Insurer. Schools are required to:

- i) Identify any additional school-specific controls that may be required for operation; and
- ii) Confirm all identified required control measures are in place

COVID-19 Risk Assessment: School Based Vaccinations Programme

School Name:	Lordswood Girls' School and Sixth Form Centre
Completed by (name)	Karen Adamson
Completed by (Job Title)	Deputy Headteacher
Assessment Date:	10/10/2021
Assessment reviewed and updated:	13/01/2022

Identified Risk	Specific risk details	Required Control Measures	Complete
------------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------

COVID-19 Risk Assessment: Vaccination Programme 12-15 Year Olds (All Schools)

<p>Planning Time and Resources</p>	<p>The school is not able to plan and make the logistical arrangements required to facilitate the vaccinations in the time provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school has been able to utilise time to put the specified arrangements in place. ● A Senior Leader has been identified to lead and oversee the school-based vaccination programme. ● Birmingham Community Healthcare (BCHC) has put in place a quality management system, in line with Public Health England/NHS requirements, and has a designated Quality Lead who has accountability for quality and risk management of the vaccination programme. The Quality Lead has a clear escalation and decision mechanism process. ● BCHC has a quality management plan in place prior to the start of the vaccinations that meets the requirements of Public Health England guidance and includes the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Training · Observation of the vaccination process · Monitoring · Risk Assessment · Recording and Reporting ● Vaccinations will commence once the correct logistical arrangements have been put in place to ensure a safe and effective vaccination facility. ● Staff have been provided with the Public Health/NHS guidance and will be followed as required by applicable personnel – detailed further later. ● Guidance documentation has been provided by the Public Health / NHS and will be followed in the establishment of the vaccination programme. 	
<p>Vaccinations Location</p>	<p>The school does not have a suitable location/adequate space within their school site to manage vaccinations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The School has identified a vaccination location that meets the minimum space requirements, the sports hall or large classroom. The space can accommodate vaccination areas and the required observation area (if required) and include the integration of a one-way system of movement for those attending vaccination (incorporating separate entrance and exits). ● The location identified for vaccinations has been calculated to have sufficient capacity to facilitate the scheduled programme. 	
<p>Vaccination Consent /low parental take up</p>	<p>Consent for vaccinations not given/received Parents reluctant to allow children to be vaccinated Insufficient vaccines available due to low consent levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schools to support NHS staff in collecting consent forms. ● Schools will ensure parents have all relevant information/guidance on the programme to assisting in making an informed decision. ● BCHC will record where pupils have not received a vaccination. 	

COVID-19 Risk Assessment: Vaccination Programme 12-15 Year Olds (All Schools)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCHC staff will manage the situation where a pupil wishes to have the vaccination, but parental or legal guardian consent has not been given. • No excess vaccine will be brought into school to vaccinate students without parental consent or late submission of consent forms. • Where consent forms were not originally received, a follow-up vaccination session will be set up for families that change their mind. • Public Health England can provide support with low parental take up through raising awareness and providing information through FAQ's etc. • Guides available through NHS will be shared with schools, parents and pupils. 	
Refusal by pupil to have a vaccination	The pupil does not receive the vaccination where parent consent has been provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school will manage these individual situations and put measures in place to minimise the disruption to other pupils and the programme. • Parents will need to be contacted to inform them of the situation in order to support the pupil. 	
Pupils receive the vaccination within 12 weeks of testing positive for COVID-19	<p>Pupil tests positive for COVID-19 within 12 weeks of vaccination date</p> <p>Pupil tests positive for COVID-19 after consent form returned to school and SAIS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent forms request parents to identify date of positive COVID-19 test • Parents are asked to contact SAIS to update details on consent form if pupil tests positive for COVID-19 after consent forms are returned to school/SAIS. • Contact details provided to parent on letter and NHS vaccination information leaflet. • The school will endeavour to identify and share with the SAIS, a list of students who are known to have tested positive for COVID-19 within 12 weeks of the vaccination date. • The SAIS will conduct screening questions before the vaccination is given to check accuracy of information on the consent form. If there is any doubt by the SAIS team, the vaccination will not be given. • The responsibility to check for COVID-19 infection before administering the vaccine lies with the NHS. 	
Pupils receive the second vaccination within 12 weeks of receiving their first vaccination	Pupil receives a second vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent forms require parents to identify COVID-19 vaccine status of their child, including the date of the first vaccine if given. • The responsibility to check the vaccine status of a pupil before administering the second vaccine lies with the NHS. 	
Pupils who have an adverse effect to the vaccination	Pupils become unwell after receiving the vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear communication will be provided to pupils, parents and staff by BCHC on what to do if symptoms develop following vaccination. 	

COVID-19 Risk Assessment: Vaccination Programme 12-15 Year Olds (All Schools)

	Anaphylactic reactions after receiving the vaccination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening questions before vaccination, monitoring for 15 mins post vaccination (if required), NHS staff trained to deal with incidents and anaphylaxis kits will be on site • If symptoms develop whilst the pupil is at school, the school will need to seek medical assistance and further guidance. 	
Legal Considerations	There is a legal challenge of the vaccination programme for example by a parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupil, parent and staff communication clearly communicates the legal position of the vaccination programme. • The sharing of health data under the vaccination programme is being facilitated within Safeguarding powers under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002. This is referred to within NHS guidance that will be made available to pupils, parents, and Staff. • The vaccination programme is recommended and supported, but not mandated. 	
Anti-vaccine activity	There is disruption due to anti-vaccination demonstrations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS staff will liaise with schools ahead of the vaccination session regarding existing security arrangements, escalation arrangements and information sharing with the Police. • In the event of a protest or disruptive activity outside a school, or if schools know a protest is planned, they should alert the SAIS (School Age Immunisation Service), local authority and police contacts to discuss the best way to manage the situation. • In the event of a protest or disruptive activity outside the main school gate at the start or end of the school day, SLT on duty will contact main reception and site team using the radio for additional staff presence. Main reception will contact the police and support staff not available on the radio. 	