

COVID-19 vaccination programme

Vaccinating children and young people: frequently asked questions

Version 1, 13 August 2021

Vaccinating children and young people: summary of current position

	Vaccine?	Doses?	Booking now?	Site type?	NBS booking?	Mechanism of admin?
1 16 < 18 years and in cohorts 2, 4 or 6	Pfizer BioNTech ¹	2 doses, min 8 weeks apart	Local booking systems or walk-in appts	HH / PCN / VC / CP	Only for C4 or C6 if flagged in NIMS. HSCW can self-declare & book	Current National Protocol. PGD updated 06/08/21 ²
2 Healthy rising 18s 17.75 < 18 years*	Pfizer BioNTech ¹	2 doses, min 8 weeks apart	Local booking systems or walk-in appts	HH / PCN / VC / CP	Available	Current National Protocol. PGD updated 06/08/21 ²
3 Healthy 16 < 17.75 years*	Pfizer BioNTech ¹	1st dose – pending further JCVI guidance	Local booking systems or walk-in appts	HH / PCN / VC / CP	In development, not currently available	PGD updated 06/08/21. National Protocol in devt ²
4 12 - 15 years at risk	Pfizer BioNTech ¹	2 doses, min 8 weeks apart	Local booking systems	HH / PCN only	Not available	PGD updated 06/08/21. National Protocol in devt ²
5 12 < 18 years household contacts of immunocompromised	Pfizer BioNTech ¹	2 doses, min 8 weeks apart	Local booking systems or walk-in <u>appts</u> for those 16+ years	PCN / HH only	Not available	PGD updated 06/08/21. National Protocol in devt ²

***All CP, VC & HH sites vaccinating must complete the readiness checklist and declare via Qflow first. See [here](#). PCN-led sites are not required to complete the readiness checklist but are strongly encouraged to review it & ensure their sites remain compliant.**

¹ Pfizer BioNTech mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine will be known as Comirnaty once licensed.

² a local Patient Specific Direction (PSD) can also be used.

12 to 15 year olds

General

1. Which providers can vaccinate eligible 12-15 year olds (cohort 13)?

- **PCN groupings** delivering the COVID-19 vaccination enhanced service are the main providers, recognising the existing relationships that general practice has with these children and their families. Where practices opt out, they need to run searches to ensure all eligible 12-15 year olds on registered lists are offered timely vaccination through other providers.
- **Hospital Hubs** should continue to proactively offer COVID-19 vaccination to eligible children and young people as a priority via inpatient and outpatient services.
- GPs and Hospital Hubs should prioritise vaccinating this group so all eligible 12-15 year olds are offered the opportunity to book an appointment by 23 August and a first vaccination before the start of the new school year.
- Vaccination centres and community pharmacy-led vaccination sites **cannot vaccinate** eligible 12-15 year olds.

2. Can eligible 12-15 year olds be vaccinated at roving/pop up sites?

The Green Book states that *“in secondary school age children, information leaflets should be available for the young person’s own use and to share with their parents prior to the date that the immunisation is scheduled”*. We are currently considering how this standard can be accommodated within a roving/pop-up model. Until a solution is identified it is not possible to vaccinate eligible 12-15 year olds in a pop up/roving site unless they have received an information leaflet prior to the date that the immunisation is booked.

3. What is the definition of a 12-15 year old ‘household contact’ of immunosuppressed individuals?

A household contacts is defined in the [Greenbook chapter 14a as](#): *“Individuals who expect to share living accommodation on most days...and therefore, for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable. This may include carers.”*¹

4. Which type of vaccine should eligible 12-15 year olds be offered?

- The [Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2 vaccine](#) is the only vaccine authorised for those aged 12 to 17².
- The offer of vaccination to children and young people must always be accompanied by appropriate information so they, and those with parental responsibility, are made aware of the potential harms and benefits as part of informed consent prior to vaccination.

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/931139/Green_book_chapter_19_influenza_V7_OCT_2020.pdf

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-statement-august-2021-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-17-years/jcvi-statement-on-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-17-years-4-august-2021>

5. What are the consent requirements for vaccinating eligible 12-15 year olds?

- Prior to vaccination, appropriate consent must be obtained in all cases. For 12-15 year olds, this would be parental consent or the child's own consent where they have been assessed as competent to consent to vaccination (this is known as Gillick competent). Where the child is not considered competent to give their own consent and does not object to vaccination, consent must be provided by those with parental responsibility (see [chapter 2 of the Green Book](#)). The consent briefing is currently being updated to reflect the new JCVI guidance.
- While there is no lower age limit for Gillick competence to be applied it would rarely be appropriate or safe for a child to consent to treatment without a parent's involvement, therefore parental involvement and consent must be sought prior to vaccinating.
- If assessment and parental consent information is required in advance of vaccination day as part of the local delivery model chosen, this should be provided a maximum of 48 hours in advance. Consent must be checked on the day to ensure clinical information is still accurate at the point of vaccination.

6. Do sites need to use a PSD to vaccinate eligible 12-15 year olds?

- The Patient Group Direction has been updated and is available [here](#).
- The national protocol for the Pfizer BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine has been updated to reflect the new JCVI advice, and is [here](#).

7. When should eligible 12-15 year olds be vaccinated?

All eligible children should be offered the opportunity to book an appointment by 23 August and a first vaccination before the start of the new school year.

PCN groupings

8. Can a PCN grouping now vaccinate eligible 12-15 year olds?

Yes, the general practice COVID-19 vaccination [enhanced service specification](#) for phase 1 and 2 has been updated to include all eligible children and young adults. Therefore, a PCN grouping can now vaccinate eligible children and younger adults if they meet the requirements of the enhanced service.

9. My PCN grouping is signed up to the COVID-19 vaccination enhanced service for phases 1 and 2 but isn't able to vaccinate eligible 12-15 year olds. What should we do?

Practices forming the PCN grouping must opt-out of delivering COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible children who are aged 12-15 by **23.59 on 13 August** in writing to their local CCG so that alternative provision can be secured.

10. How will eligible 12–15 year olds at increased risk of serious COVID-19 disease be identified and invited for an appointment?

- **PCN groupings are asked to identify eligible patients aged 12-15 at increased risk of serious COVID-19 disease as soon as possible and invite them to attend a clinic.** This currently includes [children with: severe neuro-disabilities, Down's Syndrome, underlying conditions resulting in immunosuppression, profound and multiple learning disabilities \(PMLD\), severe learning disabilities or those on the learning disability register](#). Details regarding additional groups with underlying health conditions to be offered vaccination will be provided in the [Green Book](#).
- GP IT suppliers have developed searches to support and minimise the work for practices to identify eligible patients. The searches for 12-15 year olds should be available to all practices **by close 14 August**. These will be provided via the normal routes by the three main system suppliers. We also plan to update the recently launched GP vaccine dashboard to include children and young people aged 12-15.
- Practices that are not participating in the phase 1 and 2 enhanced service, or that opt out of vaccinating children and young people aged 12-15 (cohort 13) by 13 August, need to run searches to ensure all eligible children and young people on registered lists are offered timely vaccination through other delivery models. Local commissioners will work with these practices to ensure 12-15 year olds are invited for an appointment. [See our letter](#) (dated 13 August 2021) for further details.
- We recognise that not all eligible 12-15 year olds may be identified through the GP record. Any approach by parents of children at increased risk should be considered and clinical judgement used around eligibility in line with JCVI advice.

11. How should 12-15 year olds who are household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals (adults or children) be identified?

- Practices should identify individuals on their registered patient lists who fall into the Green Book definition of severely immunosuppressed and write to inform them that any household contacts aged 12-15 are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination (using the JCVI definition). Practices should use the template in Annex A to write to patients. [See our letter for further details.](#)
- Please inform staff in your GP practice that 12-15 year old household contacts of people who are severely immunosuppressed or those with parental responsibility may call the GP practice asking to book a vaccination appointment and they should then be invited to attend a PCN-led vaccination site.

12. How will providers know whether a 12-15 year old is a household contact of an immunosuppressed individual when they arrive for their vaccination?

Household contacts will need to provide the practice with a copy of the letter (see template at Annex A), together with the address of the immunosuppressed contact, which should match the address held by the immunosuppressed person's GP practice. Younger household contacts may need to confirm their date of birth on the day. This should happen on arrival for their vaccination appointment. [See our letter for further details.](#)

13. My practice has opted out of vaccinating children aged 12-15 in cohort 13. Why do I need to identify children on my registered list that are in this cohort?

All GP practices are required to identify the eligible children on their registered list to ensure they have access to the COVID-19 vaccination before the start of the school year. It is not currently possible to nationally invite eligible children aged 12-15 to book an appointment.

14. Is there a financial supplement for vaccinating eligible 12-15 year olds?

Yes. In addition to the £12.58 item of service fee, a further supplement of £10 can be claimed per vaccination dose to eligible children and young people aged 12-15 (cohort 13). Only one £10 supplement per vaccination is claimable.

15. How do I claim the £10 supplement?

- The Point of Care systems will be developed as soon as possible to recognise the £10 supplementary payment.
- In the interim, record vaccination events for children and young people aged 12-15 (cohort 13) against the existing 'home of housebound patient' field to ensure the supplementary payment is applied. The screens in the Manage Your Service (MYS) portal are also being updated to reflect this additional payment.

16. I have already vaccinated an eligible 12–15 year old – can I retrospectively apply for the supplement?

Yes, if you have kept manual records that you can use to update the vaccination record, and as long as the vaccination has not already been claimed for during the month.

17. What other changes will be introduced into the Point of Care systems?

- They will be updated to uplift the existing age-based warnings from 'under 16' to 'under 12' and include additional consent options to support child immunisation.
- In the meantime, free text can be used to record consent and the name of the parent or legal guardian giving consent.

18. My PCN grouping has been onboarded onto the NBS. Can eligible 12-15 year olds book into one of my clinics via the NBS?

No. 12-15 year olds cannot book an appointment via the NBS. Appointments will need to be made via a local booking system.

19. What is the GP indemnity cover position for vaccinating eligible 12-15 year olds?

As vaccinating eligible children and young people is contracted through the COVID-19 vaccination enhanced service, a PCN grouping delivering COVID-19 vaccinations under the enhanced service is covered by the CNSGP indemnity arrangements.

Hospital Hubs

20. Can a trust now vaccinate eligible 12-15 year olds?

Yes, although PCN groupings are the main providers. Children in contact with hospital and Local Authority services may benefit from opportunistic vaccination in a specialist setting where children and their parents/carers are able to discuss their individual needs. Trusts should complete [the readiness checklist](#) if they are vaccinating children.

21. My trust has a Hospital Hub+ using the NBS. Can eligible 12-15 year olds at increased risk of serious COVID-19 disease book an appointment via the NBS?

No they can't.

22. Is there a financial supplement for vaccinating eligible 12-15 year olds?

No. Hospital Hubs are reimbursed for any incremental costs incurred in the delivery of COVID vaccinations. Where additional costs are incurred in the vaccination of eligible 12-15 year olds in a Hospital Hub setting, they should be reclaimed through the monthly PFR process.

16 – 17 ³/₄ year olds

General

23. Which providers can vaccinate all 16-17³/₄ year olds?

- **PCN-led vaccination sites** can now offer COVID-19 vaccinations to all 16-17³/₄ year olds. Communications that can be tailored locally are [here](#).
- For **community pharmacy-led LVS and vaccination centres** booking via NBS is not available at the moment. We will let you know as soon as this is available.
- In the interim, CPs, VCs and HH+s are asked to make walk-in appointments available for 16–17 ³/₄ year olds (and 17³/₄s to 18) by completing [the readiness checklist](#). Sites need processes in place to ensure this cohort only receive a first dose until further instruction is given. Further information has been shared about how to advertise walk-in opportunities.
- For children and young people aged 16 to 17³/₄ with severe neuro-disabilities or a learning disability the preferred model of delivery is via a PCN-led vaccination service, domiciliary teams or school immunisation teams.

24. Can 16-17 ³/₄ year olds be vaccinated at a roving/pop up site?

- A PCN-led site could vaccinate 16-17³/₄ year olds at a roving/pop up site subject to the agreement of the local commissioner and provided the site meets the requirements of the ES and [readiness checklist](#).
- A community pharmacy-led site, hospital hub and VC could vaccinate 16-17³/₄ year olds at a pop up site subject to the agreement of the local commissioner and provided the “parent site” is able to do so and the pop up site meets the requirements in [the readiness checklist](#), including that staff have completed the relevant safeguarding and paediatric BLS training etc, and have the appropriate equipment.

25. Which type of COVID-19 vaccination should 16-17¾ year olds be offered?

- The [Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2 vaccine](#) is the only vaccine authorised for those aged 12 to 17³.
- The offer of vaccination to children and young people must be accompanied by appropriate information to enable children and young people, and those with parental responsibility, to be adequately appraised of the potential harms and benefits of vaccination as part of informed consent prior to vaccination.

26. How many doses of the COVID-19 vaccination should 16-17¾ year olds be offered?

At this time, [JCVI advises](#) that 16-17 year olds should be offered a first dose. This is in addition to the existing offer of 2 doses of vaccine to 16 to 17 year olds who are in “at risk” groups. Pending further evidence on effectiveness and safety in this age group, a second vaccine dose is anticipated to be offered later to increase the level of protection and contribute towards longer term protection. Further data and the potential availability of alternative vaccine options will inform exact details, which will be provide in a subsequent update before second doses are due at approximately 12 weeks after the first dose.

Young people who are called as part of the 16-17 year old programme and receive their first dose above the age of 17 years and 40 weeks may be scheduled to receive their second dose after an interval of at least 8 weeks, as part of the “turning 18 programme”.

27. What safeguards should sites put in place to ensure that 16-17¾ year olds receive the correct number of doses as recommended by JCVI?

- The JCVI recommendation has been made on risks and benefits to the individual. JCVI will be reviewing the advice on second doses for healthy 16-17 year olds and further information will be shared with sites when available.
- Sites must check an individual’s age and eligibility to receive a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in line with [JCVI guidance](#) before administering a second dose.

28. Will 16-17¾ year olds be invited to use the NBS to book their COVID-19 vaccinations?

- Booking via NBS is not available at the moment. We will let you know as soon as this is available. They will be invited by PCN groupings and will be able to use walk-in services that can vaccinate under 18s to get a first dose.
- Further information has been shared about how to advertise walk-in opportunities.

29. Do sites need to use a Patient Specific Direction (PSD) to vaccinate 16-17¾ year olds?

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-statement-august-2021-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-17-years/jcvi-statement-on-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-17-years-4-august-2021>

- The Patient Group Direction has been updated and is available [here](#). The national protocol for the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been updated, and is [here](#).
- 16-17¾ year olds can only be vaccinated using the PGD or PSD, which requires a prescriber on site, or by a prescriber themselves.

30. What DBS checks are needed to vaccinate 16-17¾ year olds?

- The full set of DBS requirements is in the [workforce considerations for Phase 3 children's vaccination](#) guidance.
- To support the NHS to respond to the pandemic there is currently a fast track child bar check. The full details are [here](#) (see also the workforce and training guidance issued on 23 July 2021).

PCN groupings

31. What is the position on GP indemnity cover for vaccinating eligible 16-17 ¾ year olds?

As the vaccination of eligible children and young people is contracted through the COVID-19 vaccination enhanced service (ES), a PCN grouping delivering COVID-19 vaccinations under the ES is covered by the CNSGP indemnity arrangements.

32. Is there an additional payment for 16-17¾ year olds?

- A £10 supplement is not claimable for all 16 and 17 year olds. £10.00 is only payable to the GP practice:
 - a. for administration of each vaccination to each patient where that patient is:
 - i. resident in and receives the vaccination at a care home or residential setting (including care homes for people with learning disabilities or mental health problems, or hostel/hotel accommodation for the homeless, where it would not be possible for these patients to attend vaccination sites); or
 - ii. employed or engaged by a care home and receives the vaccination at that care home or residential setting; or
 - b. for administration of each vaccination to each patient where:
 - i. the medical condition of a patient is such that, in the reasonable opinion of the GP practice the patient is classed as housebound due to being unable to leave their home at all or requires significant assistance to leave the house due to illness, frailty, surgery, mental ill health or nearing end of life and is recorded as such in their clinical notes;

- ii. where that patient requires administration of a vaccination; and
- iii. where the GP practice has recorded the status of the Patient in the Point of Care System prior to making the claim for payment

Community pharmacy

33. Can community pharmacy-led vaccination sites administer COVID-19 vaccinations to healthy 16-17¾ year olds?

- [Our letter](#) states that **all** patients aged 16 and 17 are now included in the list of cohorts of those eligible for vaccination. LVS sites can start to vaccinate patients in this cohort as walk-ins or via local booking, subject to completing the clinical criteria in the [checklist](#) as a self-assessment process.
- If community pharmacies meet the self-assessment criteria to vaccinate individuals within 3 months of their 18th birthday, they must indicate readiness in QFlow. This [operational note](#) outlines how young people approaching their 18th birthday (aged 17 years, 9 months and over) will shortly be able to book their first dose through the NBS and includes [guidance on how to update Qflow](#). Only sites that have this functionality enabled and have Pfizer appointments available will be shown to people in this age range on the NBS.
- The NBS is being updated to reflect the first dose offer for those aged 16 to 17 and 8 months as set out by JCVI, and we'll keep you updated on this. These patients can be vaccinated as walk-ins or via local booking if the site has completed the self-assessment process **and** determined that they meet the criteria.
- All pharmacy contractors delivering services under [the Local Enhanced Service: COVID-19 vaccination programme 2020/21](#) are required to carry out the service in compliance with their Terms of Service, which include having appropriate safeguarding procedures in place for those receiving vaccinations.

34. Does the LES cover 16-17¾ year olds?

All patients aged 16 and 17 are now included in the list of cohorts of those eligible for vaccination (as per section 4.2 of the Community Pharmacy Covid-19 vaccination local enhanced service).

35. Do I need to submit my completed self-assessment form (for the vaccination of 16 - 17 ¾ year olds)?

Please save a record of the completed form. This may be requested by your regional lead.

36. If I self-declare on QFlow will that mean that 16-17¾ year olds are able to book at my site immediately?

Once Qflow is enabled only those within 3 months of their 18th birthday will be able to book. Those aged 16-17¾ will not be able to book on NBS at this time. 16-17¾ year olds can use walk in services or services using local booking services.

37. My CP site doesn't currently have any Pfizer vaccine – what do I do?

Complete the Pfizer deployment checklist and submit it to your regional CP lead to sign off before requesting any Pfizer vaccine.

38. For CP sites who do not have an identified level 3 safeguarding lead, what options are available?

Level 3 safeguarding leads do not need to be based on site. CPs should liaise with their regional team for help in identifying a suitable solution for the site. This could be through local agreements with a different provider/commissioner or with a designated professional in the area.

39. Can a CP-led site administer COVID-19 vaccinations to children and young people aged 16 and over if they present as a walk-in patient?

Community pharmacy LVS sites can start to vaccinate patients in this cohort as walk-ins or via local booking, subject to completing the clinical criteria in the [checklist](#), as a self-assessment process, and in accordance with the valid legal mechanism.

40. What is the indemnity cover position for vaccinating 16-17¾ year olds?

Vaccinating 16 and 17 year-olds under the Local Enhanced Service: COVID-19 vaccination programme 2020/1 (phase 1 and 2) [here](#) is covered under the state indemnity arrangements. Vaccinating 16 and 17 year olds under the community pharmacy local enhanced service: COVID-19 Vaccination programme: phase 3 2021/22 [here](#) is subject to the indemnity requirements described in that document.

Vaccination centres

41. Can vaccination centres now vaccinate healthy 16-17¾ year olds?

- Yes, subject to completing the readiness checklist [here](#). Once it's been completed, VCs should immediately self-declare via QFlow that they meet these requirements.
- Regional teams are responsible for ensuring that sites vaccinating 16-17¾ year olds meet the clinical criteria as per the PGD.

42. Do I need to submit my completed assessment form (for the vaccination of 16-17¾ year olds)?

Please save a record of the completed form. This may be requested by your regional lead.

43. Can a vaccination centre administer vaccinations to 16-17¾ year olds as walk-ins?

Vaccination centres can start to vaccinate patients in this cohort as walk-ins or via local booking, subject to completing the clinical criteria in the [checklist](#) as a self-assessment process.

17¾ - 18 year olds

General

44. Which providers can vaccinate young adults who are within three months of their 18th birthday?

- Many **PCN groupings** have already started vaccinating young adults who are within three months of their 18th birthday (17¾ year olds) following the amendment made to the [enhanced service specification](#) for phases 1 and 2.
- **CP led vaccination sites, Vaccination Centres and Hospital Hubs** can vaccinate young people within three months of their 18th birthday subject to completing a self-assessment to declare the site complies with requirements circulated to providers on 4 August 2021. Completing the [self-assessment](#) is a pre-requisite to sites offering walk-in appointments to those within three months of their 18th birthday.
- All vaccination sites must ensure there are appropriate mechanisms in place to enable those aged less than 18 to be identified on check-in and routed so they are seen by appropriate, competent and trained staff.
- Staff working with individuals under the age of 18 must have an appropriate level of disclosure and barring service check. Full details, including how to obtain a fast track check, are [here](#) and [here](#).

45. Can 17¾ - 18 year olds be vaccinated at a roving / pop up site?

- A PCN-led site could vaccinate 17¾-18 year olds at a roving pop up site subject to the agreement of the local commissioner and provided the site meets the requirements of the ES and those set out in [the readiness checklist](#).
- A community pharmacy-led site, Hospital Hub and VC can vaccinate 17¾ - 18 year olds at a pop up site subject to local commissioner agreement and provided the “parent site” is able to do so and the pop up site meets the requirements in [the readiness checklist](#), including that staff have completed the relevant safeguarding and paediatric BLS training etc, and have the appropriate equipment.

46. Which type of COVID-19 vaccination should 17¾-18 year olds be offered?

- The [Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2 vaccine](#) is the only vaccine authorised for persons aged 12 to 17 in the UK⁴.
- In all instances, the offer of vaccination to children and young people must be accompanied by appropriate information to enable them, and those with parental responsibility, to be informed of the potential harms and benefits of vaccination as part of informed consent prior to vaccination.

47. Will 17¾-18 year olds be invited to use the NBS to book their COVID-19 vaccinations?

- Yes, 17¾-18 year olds are invited to book their 1st and 2nd dose on the NBS at a site that has self-declared that they meet the readiness checklist requirements to be able to vaccinate those aged 16-18.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-statement-august-2021-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-17-years/jcvi-statement-on-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-17-years-4-august-2021>

- Those aged 18 years and over can already book a COVID-19 vaccination via the NBS.

48. Do sites need to use a PSD to vaccinate 17¾ - 18 year olds?

- The Patient Group Direction has been updated and is available [here](#). The national protocol for the Pfizer BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine has been updated to reflect the new JCVI advice, and is [here](#).
- In the meantime, until they are updated and in line with PHE advice, the current protocol does already allow some flexibility for patients to be called for vaccination before their 18th birthday. This means that '18' in the existing protocol and PGD can in present circumstances be interpreted as including 17-year olds within 3 months of their 18th birthday, where this is necessary to support high vaccine uptake.

PCN Groupings

49. What is the position on GP indemnity cover for the vaccination of 17¾-18 year olds?

As the vaccination of eligible children and young people is contracted through the COVID-19 vaccination enhanced service, a PCN Grouping delivering COVID-19 vaccinations under the enhanced service is covered by the CNSGP indemnity arrangements.

Community pharmacy

50. Can community pharmacy-led vaccination sites administer COVID-19 vaccinations to 17¾ - 18 year olds?

- As set out in [our letter](#), all patients aged 16 and 17 are now included in the list of cohorts of those who are eligible for vaccination as per section 4.2 of the Community Pharmacy Covid-19 vaccination local enhanced service. Community pharmacy LVS sites can start to vaccinate patients in this cohort as walk-ins or via local booking, subject to completing the clinical criteria in the [checklist](#) as a self-assessment process.
- Once community pharmacies have self-assessed if they meet the criteria to vaccinate individuals within 3 months of their 18th birthday, they must indicate readiness in QFlow. This [operational note](#) outlines how young people approaching their 18th birthday (aged 17, 9 months and over) will shortly be able to book their first dose through the NBS and includes [guidance on how to update Qflow](#). Only sites that have this functionality enabled and have Pfizer appointments available will be shown to people in this age range on the NBS.
- All pharmacy contractors delivering services under the [Local Enhanced Service: COVID-19 vaccination programme 2020/21](#) are required to carry out the service in compliance with their Terms of Service which include having appropriate safeguarding procedures in place for those receiving vaccinations.

51. Does the LES cover 17¾ - 18 year olds?

All patients aged 16 and 17 are now included in the list of cohorts of those who are eligible for vaccination as per section 4.2 of the Community Pharmacy Covid-19 vaccination local enhanced service.

52. Do I need to submit my completed self-assessment form (for vaccinating 17¾ - 18 year olds)?

Please save a record of the completed form. This may be requested by your Regional Lead.

53. If I self-declare on QFlow will that mean that 17¾ - 18 year olds are able to book at my site immediately?

Yes, once Qflow is enabled those within 3 months of their 18th birthday will be able to book an appointment.

54. My CP site doesn't currently have any Pfizer. What do I do?

If CP-led vaccination sites typically do not receive Pfizer vaccine and wish to vaccinate 16 and 17 year olds then they should complete the Pfizer Deployment Checklist and submit it to their regional CP lead to sign off before requesting any Pfizer vaccine.

55. For CPs who do not have an identified level 3 safeguarding lead, what options are available?

Level 3 safeguarding leads do not need to be based on site. We suggest CPs liaise with their regional team to seek help in identifying a suitable solution for your site. This could be through local agreements with a different provider/commissioner or with a designated professional in the area.

56. What is the position on indemnity cover for the vaccination of 17¾ - 18 year olds?

Vaccinating 16 and 17 year-olds under the Local Enhanced Service: COVID-19 vaccination programme 2020/1 (phase 1 and 2) [here](#) is covered under the state indemnity arrangements. Vaccinating 16 and 17 year olds under the community pharmacy local enhanced service: COVID-19 Vaccination programme: phase 3 2021/22 [here](#) will be subject to indemnity requirements described in that document.

Vaccination Centres

57. Can vaccination centres vaccinate 17¾ - 18 year olds

- In line with JCVI guidance, vaccination centres can vaccinate individuals within 3 months of their 18th birthday subject to completing the readiness [checklist](#).
- Regional teams are responsible for ensuring that sites vaccinating individuals within 3 months of their 18th birthday meet the clinical criteria as per the PGD.

58. Do I need to submit my completed assessment form (for vaccinating eligible 17¾ – 18 year olds)?

Immediately self-declare on QFlow and save a record of the completed form. This may be requested by your Regional Lead.

59. Can a Vaccination Centre administer COVID-19 vaccinations to 17¾ - 18 year olds if they present as a walk-in patient?

Vaccination centres can start to vaccinate patients in this group as walk-ins or via local booking, subject to completing the clinical criteria in the [checklist](#) as a self-assessment process.

General points

60. Will staff accessed through lead employers have enhanced DBS checks?

Yes, if they are paid employees (RHCPs, unregistered vaccinators and HCWs). Volunteer stewards from RVS will not be DBS checked. St John Ambulance volunteers will only have enhanced checks without barred lists for child and adult. Admin staff will have standard DBS checks.

61. Are enhanced DBS checks required for those undertaking post-vaccination observation of children and younger adults if they are under supervision of a healthcare professional and have had a Standard DBS check?

Yes, enhanced DBS checks are required. The full set of DBS requirements for vaccination staff is in this [workforce considerations for Phase 3 children's vaccination](#) guidance.

62. Can any staff member who holds an enhanced DBS check with adult and child barred list information act as the supervisor for stewards and administrators or does it have to be someone in a specific role?

Supervision does not require a specific role as long as appropriate DBS checks are in place.

63. Can sites order additional supplies of Pfizer vaccine if required for vaccinating eligible children and young adults?

Yes, sites can request this through the supply planner up until 6 days before the beginning of each week. If sites don't have access to the supply planner, they should raise the request through their SVOC who can request vaccine on their behalf.

Sites using Pfizer for the first time should complete the Pfizer deployment checklist, which is attached to the vaccine allocation emails, and submit it to their Regional CP lead to sign off before requesting any Pfizer vaccine.

Annex A: Template letter to severely immunosuppressed individuals for GP practices to adapt and issue

12-15 year old household contacts of people who are severely immunosuppressed are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination

Dear [NAME]

We are writing to let you know that household contacts aged 12-15 of those who are severely immunosuppressed are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. You fall into that category of adults given your current health condition, and we therefore want to ensure any household contacts aged 12-15 are offered a COVID-19 vaccination.

This is because the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has recently advised that household contacts of young people aged 16 years and over and adults with severe immunosuppression should be offered COVID-19 vaccination. This aims to reduce the risk of infection to you by vaccinating those most likely to transmit to you, as even though you may have received your COVID-19 vaccination, you may have lower protection from the vaccine given that you are immunosuppressed.

The revised JCVI advice applies to household contacts who are 12 to 15 years old with whom you **“expect to share living accommodation on most days.... and therefore, for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable.”** Household contacts aged 16 years and over are already eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination.

Please let any household contacts in that age group know they can now book a vaccination appointment via their registered GP practice, who will then invite them to attend their GP-led Local Vaccination Service.

Your household contacts will need to use this letter, together with proof of address of the immunosuppressed contact which should match the address held by the practice. This should happen on arrival for their vaccination appointment. They may also be asked for their date of birth.

Members of ‘bubbles’ that do not live with an immunosuppressed person for the majority of the week (frequent visitors and other non-carers who might visit the house often but not for the majority of the week, including overnight stays) are not included in the definition of ‘household contacts’ for the purpose of this vaccination programme, and should follow current advice on vaccination access, insofar as it relates to them.

For more information about the coronavirus vaccine, read the leaflet that came with this letter, or visit www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination

Yours sincerely

[Signatory]