

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In line with the guidance from the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust will be offering second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to all 12-15 year olds. If your child has not yet had their 1<sup>st</sup> COVID-19 vaccine it is still possible to do so.

Consent forms submitted between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 - 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 only gave consent for dose 1. If your child has not received dose 1 yet the new consent form will capture consent for both doses, in addition to those students who are only outstanding dose 2.

### How to consent for COVID-19

**If you have not completed a consent form since the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022**, please complete a consent form as instructed below, before the closing date and time, to consent for your child to have any outstanding doses of the COVID-19 Vaccination.

**The online consent form closes at 11am, 2 working days before your session date, which can be found in the accompanying email from your child's school.**

- 1. Click on the following the link:** [Vaccination Consent \(Susseximmunisations.co.uk\)](https://Susseximmunisations.co.uk)
- 2. Enter and confirm your preferred email address** – you will receive a confirmation email following submission of the consent form.
- 3. Enter your school code and click 'Find School'** – *The school codes are unique to each school and site. Please use the correct code for your child's school, found on this letter, to avoid delays with vaccination:*  
**SX114587**
- 4. Check the school name matches:** **HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
- 5. Complete and submit the consent form**, indicating your choice of consent - Please ensure you provide the child's registered address and GP.

### Please be aware we will not be able to vaccinate:

- Students who received COVID-19 dose 1 **less than 12 weeks** before the planned session date.
- Students who have had a COVID-19 infection **less than 12 weeks** before the planned covid session date.

If you have any questions about the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme you can contact the Vaccine Enquires Team on 0800 433 4545 (open 9am – 4pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays).

Yours sincerely

**COVID-19 School Aged Immunisation Service**



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What if my child has recently tested positive for COVID-19?**

If your child has had COVID-19 they will not be able to be vaccinated until 12 weeks (84 days) since onset of symptoms or positive COVID-19 test result.

### **What do I do if I am unable to complete a form online?**

Call the COVID-19 Schools Immunisation service on 01293 227797 (open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays) and we will be able to take your consent information over the phone.

### **What do I do if I do not want my child to have this vaccination?**

If you have not done so already, please complete the online consent form indicating that you do not give consent for your child to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have previously done this you do not need to submit a further form. In the absence of a form we will follow national guidance on children self-consenting.

### **What if I have already consented?**

Consent forms submitted between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 - 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 only gave consent for dose 1. If your child has not received dose 1 yet the new consent form will capture consent for both doses, in addition to those students who are only outstanding dose 2. If you have any questions about this please call the COVID-19 Schools Immunisation service on 01293 227797 (open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays)

### **What if my child wants the vaccination but, as a parent / guardian, we would rather they didn't have it?**

If you do not want your child to have this vaccination, please complete the online consent form indicating this. However, if your child approaches us requesting this vaccination where you have indicated you do not consent, we would endeavour to have a conversation with you to discuss their options.

### **I've consented for my child to have the vaccine but they refuse it on the day?**

If your child refuses to have the vaccine we will not vaccinate them. You will receive an email, sent to the email address provided when completing the consent form, advising you of the vaccination outcome. If your child was not vaccinated, following submission of a positive consent form, the email will set out the reason for this and contain details of how to book into a further clinic.

### **What do I do if I have changed my mind after completing an online consent form?**

You must contact the COVID-19 Schools Immunisation service on 01293 227797 (open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays) to change your consent and cancel your appointment prior to the day of the vaccination.

### **How will I know when my child has been vaccinated?**

You will receive an email, sent to the email address provided when completing the online form, advising you of the vaccination outcome. If your child was not vaccinated, following submission of a positive consent form, your email will advise of the reason for this and contain details of how to book another clinic.

### **My child is having other routine vaccinations can they still have their COVID-19 Vaccine?**

Yes, your child can have other vaccinations around the same time as the COVID-19 vaccination. Guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) states that the COVID vaccine can be given alongside other live and inactivated vaccines. The COVID vaccine is an inactivated intramuscular vaccination. There is no longer any need to observe a 7 days gap between vaccines. The only exception to this new guidance is shingles vaccination, where a 7 day interval should be observed.

### **Will my child be able to receive another vaccine in these clinics?**

No, these clinics are specifically for COVID-19 vaccination only.

### **If I do not complete a consent form, will my child still be able to receive the vaccination?**

They will not be able to receive the vaccination at the school session, however, you can book a 12-15 vaccination at various venues across Sussex via the National Booking System (119) or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Which vaccination will my child receive?

Pfizer Comirnaty is the vaccine used in the 12-15 age group for preventing COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus. The patient information leaflet can be found here: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.12740.pdf>

### On the day of vaccination

Wear clothes that would allow the nurses to access the top of the arm, such as a short sleeved shirt/T shirt. They should have breakfast as usual and ensure that they have plenty to drink throughout the day.

### What to expect afterwards

Following vaccination the young person may experience fever, aches, headache, nausea or tiredness. This is an expected immune response which can be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen (never aspirin for under-16s); always follow the directions on the packet. It's common to get some swelling, redness or tenderness at the injection site. Sometimes a small painless lump develops, but this usually disappears in a few weeks. Any other side effects are unusual. If you're worried about any reaction you can call the NHS 111 service. Please inform us or your GP if your child has any side effects other than those listed above following vaccination.

### Vaccine Safety

The COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by the MHRA for 12 to 15 year olds. Information around the vaccine is available from [www.sussexhealthandcare.uk](http://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk)

