

This letter contains important information about your child's COVID-19 vaccination.

January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## YOUR CHILD'S COVID-19 VACCINATION

Oxford Health are offering some local catch-up clinics for Covid-19 vaccinations for children in Reception to Year 7. These will be run in conjunction with the School Aged Immunisation Service, who will be administering other immunisations, including the flu vaccines. Your child is entitled for two Covid-19 vaccines, if they fall into one of the categories below:

- If they were born on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 and are not in one of the clinical risk groups listed below, they are entitled to two primary doses, 12 weeks (84 days) apart.
- If they are aged 5-years old and above and they are in one of the clinical risk groups listed below or they are a household contact with someone who is considered immuno-suppressed (a definition of conditions included in this group are in the list below), they are entitled to two primary doses, 8 weeks (56 days) apart and a booster dose 13 weeks (91 days) after the 2<sup>nd</sup> primary dose.
- If they are considered immuno-suppressed, they are entitled to three primary doses, 8 weeks (56 days) apart. From the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022, they also became entitled for a booster dose, this needs to be administered at least 13 weeks (91 days) after their last (3<sup>rd</sup>) primary dose.

## Clinical Risk Groups

Chronic respiratory disease

Including those with poorly controlled asthma<sup>1</sup> that requires continuous or repeated use of systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission, cystic fibrosis, ciliary dyskinesias and bronchopulmonary dysplasia

Chronic heart conditions

Haemodynamically significant congenital and acquired heart disease, or less severe heart disease with other co-morbidity. This includes:

single ventricle patients or those palliated with a Fontan (Total Cavopulmonary Connection) circulation

those with chronic cyanosis (oxygen saturations <85% persistently)

patients with cardiomyopathy requiring medication

patients with congenital heart disease on medication to improve heart function

patients with pulmonary hypertension (high blood pressure in the lungs) requiring medication

Chronic conditions of the kidney, liver or digestive system	Including those associated with congenital malformations of the organs, metabolic disorders and neoplasms, and conditions such as severe gastro-oesophageal reflux that may predispose to respiratory infection
Chronic neurological disease	This includes those with neuro-disability and/or neuromuscular disease that may occur as a result of conditions such as cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy and muscular dystrophy hereditary and degenerative disease of the nervous system or muscles, other conditions associated with hypoventilation severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), Down's syndrome, including all those on the learning disability register neoplasm of the brain
Endocrine disorders	Including diabetes mellitus, Addison's and hypopituitary syndrome
Immunosuppression	Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including: those undergoing chemotherapy or radiotherapy, solid organ transplant recipients, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients genetic disorders affecting the immune system (e.g. deficiencies of IRAK-4 or NEMO, complement disorder, SCID) those with haematological malignancy, including leukaemia and lymphoma those receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulating biological therapy those treated with or likely to be treated with high or moderate dose corticosteroids those receiving any dose of non-biological oral immune modulating drugs e.g. methotrexate, azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine or mycophenolate those with auto-immune diseases who may require long term immunosuppressive treatments children who are about to receive planned immunosuppressive therapy should be considered for vaccination prior to commencing therapy.
Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen	Including hereditary spherocytosis, homozygous sickle cell disease and thalassemia major
Serious genetic abnormalities that affect a number of systems	Including mitochondrial disease and chromosomal abnormalities

## Booking an appointment

Due to operational reasons, there are two ways to book a Covid-19 vaccine for your child, please check both systems as there are different clinics on each database. The booking systems are:

School Aged Immunisation Service's website:

[Oxfordshire SAIS - Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust Oxfordshire School Aged Immunisation Service](#)

You will need the school's unique booking code to book via this route.

School Booking Code:  OX140556
--------------------------------------

Or via the National Booking Service, by calling 119 or via the website:

[Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

## Why is it Important for your Child to Receive their Covid-19 Vaccine?

Anyone who gets Covid-19 can become seriously ill or have long-term effects (long COVID). The Covid-19 vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and others.

Research has shown the vaccines help:

- Reduce your child's risk of getting seriously ill or dying from Covid-19
- Reduce your child's risk of catching and spreading Covid-19
- Protects against Covid-19 variants

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Little

**Senior Clinical Lead- Vaccination and Population Health**