



16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

I mentioned in my last letter to you that I would write again when we had received more information about the forthcoming COVID-19 vaccination for young people aged 12 to 15 years.

Please see below information from the Department of Education outlining why the vaccines are considered appropriate for this age group. I have also included information about how the vaccines will be administered.

*Vaccinating children should help to reduce the need for children to have time off school and to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools. The COVID-19 vaccination programme in secondary schools will therefore provide protection to children who are vaccinated and help to reduce disruption to face to face education this winter.*

*All young people aged 16 and 17 years have been offered a first dose of vaccine. Children and young people [aged 12 to 17 years who are at increased risk from infection](#), or who are living with someone who is immunosuppressed, have also been offered 2 doses of the vaccine, 8 weeks apart.*

*And now all children aged 12 to 15 years are being offered a first dose of vaccine as part of the school-based COVID-19 vaccination programme. Children who are 12 years old and over on the day the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) team visits the school, will be offered a vaccination as part of the in-school vaccination programme.*

*Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccines will be administered by healthcare staff working closely with the school and following the usual approach to school-based immunisation.*

*Your local SAIS provider has been asked to work with schools to plan for the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds. The SAIS will be the primary provider of the vaccination programme for healthy 12 to 15 year olds and will be legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccine.*

*The SAIS provider will be contractually responsible for the service, as they are for other school vaccination programmes. The expectation is that the vaccination programme will be delivered primarily within schools but there might be certain areas or certain schools where this is not possible.*

*For those aged 12 to 15 years consent will be sought by the SAIS provider **from the parent or person with parental responsibility** in the same way as for any other school vaccination programme.*

*A consent form and information leaflet provided by the SAIS team will be used to seek parental consent. Parents will also be provided with a contact number for the SAIS team in case of any queries.*

### ***Common side effects***

*Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short-term and not everyone gets them. The very common side effects should only last a day or 2.*

*Very common side effects in the first day or 2 include:*

- *having a painful, heavy feeling and tenderness in the arm where you had your injection*
- *feeling tired*
- *headache, aches and chills*

*Children and young people may also have flu-like symptoms with episodes of shivering and shaking for a day or 2.*

*We suggest that children should rest and take paracetamol (following the dose advice in the packaging) to help make them feel better.*

Our local SAIS team is Virgin Care who today confirmed that COVID-19 vaccines will be offered to 12 to 15 year olds at Plymouth High on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

**Virgin Care will seek consent from parents ahead of the vaccination date.** Should you decide to give your consent, please do so as soon as you receive the request. This will ensure that appropriate resources can be prepared.

Further information about the vaccines can be found [here](#)

Very best wishes,



**Simon Underdown.**  
**Headteacher.**