

# DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

## IMPORTANT: Covid vaccination schools programme

This autumn all young people aged **12 to 15 years old** are being offered the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in school.

The main purpose of the COVID-19 school age vaccination programme is to provide protection to the children who receive the vaccine and may help to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the wider population.

**The vaccination team will be on site at Darwen Vale High school on 15th October 2021. Children having the vaccine on this date will be required to come in their PE top.**

Please find attached guidance for parents, a guide for children and young people and the consent form and checklist.

**Please complete the consent form whether you want to consent for your child to have the vaccine or not, ensuring you complete the correct box (left box for your child to have the vaccination, right box for your child NOT to have the vaccination).**

**ALL FORMS NEED TO BE RETURNED IF CONSENTING OR NOT.**

**If you DO consent for your child to have the vaccine, please also complete the CHECKLIST on the back of the consent form.**

**DO NOT COMPLETE IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT 12 YEARS OLD BY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, OR IS 16 YEARS OLD ON 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER.**

**Please return this consent form with your child by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October and ask them to give it to their Form Tutor.**

If you require any further information please see the Government or NHS websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-15-years-against-covid-19/universal-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-15-years-against-covid-19>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/who-can-get-the-vaccine/>

Booklets which have been emailed are also available on our website, or at our Reception Desk.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Little  
Principal

**COVID 19**

# Vaccination consent form for children and young people

The COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to your child. Your child will receive their first COVID-19 vaccine and you may be notified about the second dose later. The leaflet sent with this form includes more information about the vaccines currently in use. Please discuss the vaccination with your child, then complete this form before it is due. Information about the vaccinations will be put on your child's health records.

Child's full name (first name and surname):	Date of birth:
Home address:	Daytime contact telephone number for parent/carer:
NHS number (if known):	Ethnicity:
School (if relevant):	Year group/class:
GP name and address:	

## Consent for COVID-19 vaccination (Please complete **one** box only)

<b>I want</b> my child to receive the COVID-19 vaccination	<b>I do not want</b> my child to have the COVID-19 vaccine
Name:	Name:
Signature: Parent/Guardian	Signature: Parent/Guardian
Date:	Date:

If after discussion, you and your child decide that you do not want them to have the vaccine, it would be helpful if you would give the reasons for this on the back of this form.

Ask for the **What to expect after your COVID-19 vaccination leaflet** at [gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people](https://gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people). It will tell you about the side effects and how to report them to the Yellowcard scheme at [yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk](https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk).

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Date of COVID-19 vaccination	Site of injection (please circle)		Batch number/ expiry date	Immuniser (please print)	Where administered ( hub, PCN, GP etc)
First	L arm	R arm			
Second	L arm	R arm			



## Checklist for children aged 12 to 15 year being vaccinated in schools: Pfizer BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine

Please complete the following checklist for your child. If you tick yes to any of the answers below, we may contact you for further information. Please let the school know if anything changes prior to the date of your child's Covid immunisation session.

Has your child	If yes, please tick	If you ticked the box, please provide further details
<b>Ever had a Covid vaccine before?</b> (For example as part of a trial, or because they are in an at risk group)	<input type="checkbox"/>	What date(s)  Did they have any reaction or adverse events?
<b>Had an illness with a temperature (fever) in the last week?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Had any other vaccines in the last 7 days?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Got any long-term medical conditions that require on-going hospital treatment or are they waiting to see a specialist?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Had a positive Covid test in the last 4 weeks?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, what date(s)
<b>Ever had to go to hospital following a severe allergic reaction?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Name and signature of person completing this form:

Contact no:

Name of child:

Date form completed:



Public Health  
England

**NHS**



# COVID-19 vaccination

## A guide for children and young people



Find out more at [nhs/CovidVaccine](https://nhs.uk/covidvaccine)

# This leaflet explains the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination programme for eligible children and young people.

## **What is COVID-19 or coronavirus?**

COVID-19 is a very infectious respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Very few children and young people with COVID-19 infection go on to have severe disease.

There is no cure for COVID-19 although some newly tested treatments do help to reduce the risk of complications.



The NHS is offering COVID-19 vaccine to children and young people. This includes those aged 12 to 17 years at increased risk from infection who will need 2 doses of the vaccine 8 weeks apart. All other young people aged 12 to 17 years will be offered a first dose of vaccine. The timing of a second dose for these 12 to 17 year olds will be confirmed later.

## **Are you at risk from COVID-19 infection?**

Coronavirus can affect anyone. Some children and young people are at greater risk including those living with serious conditions such as:

- cancers (such as leukaemia or lymphoma)
- diabetes
- serious heart problems
- chest complaint or breathing difficulties, including poorly controlled asthma
- kidney, liver or a gut disease
- lowered immunity due to disease or treatment (steroid medication, chemotherapy or radiotherapy)
- an organ transplant
- a neurodisability or neuromuscular condition
- a severe or profound learning disability
- Down's syndrome
- a problem with your spleen, eg sickle cell disease, or you have had your spleen removed
- epilepsy
- serious genetic problems
- other serious medical conditions as advised by your doctor or specialist.

Your specialist or GP will tell you if you need the COVID-19 vaccination.

For most children and young people COVID-19 is usually a milder illness that rarely leads to complications. For a very few the symptoms may last for longer than the usual 2 to 3 weeks. The vaccination will help to protect you against COVID-19.

Currently the vaccine licensed for children and young people is the Pfizer vaccine. This is what you will be offered.

## **Will the vaccine protect me?**

The COVID-19 vaccination will reduce the chance of you suffering from COVID-19 disease. It may take a few weeks for your body to build up some protection from the vaccine. You should get good protection from the first dose, having the second dose should give you longer lasting protection against the virus.

Like all medicines, no vaccine is completely effective – some people may still get COVID-19 despite having a vaccination, but this should be less severe. Further information is available on symptoms on [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk).

The vaccines do not contain organisms that grow in the body, and so are safe for children and young people with disorders of the immune system. These people may not respond so well to the vaccine but it should offer them protection against severe disease.

## **What about giving consent?**

You will probably want to share information about the vaccine with your parents and discuss it together.

If you are being offered the vaccination at school, you may be given a consent form that your parent/guardian should sign giving permission for you to have the vaccination.

The nurse or GP will discuss the COVID-19 vaccine with you at your appointment and will be able to answer any questions you may have.

## Common side effects

Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short term, and not everyone gets them. With the vaccine we use in under-18s, side effects are more common with the second dose.

Very common side effects include:

- having a painful, heavy feeling and tenderness in the arm where you had your injection. This tends to be worst around 1 to 2 days after the vaccination
- feeling tired
- headache
- general aches, or mild flu like symptoms

You can rest and take paracetamol (follow the dose advice in the packaging) to help make you feel better. Although feeling feverish is not uncommon for 2 to 3 days, a high temperature is unusual and may indicate you have COVID-19 or another infection. Symptoms following vaccination normally last less than a week. If your symptoms seem to get worse or if you are concerned, you or your parents can call NHS 111.

## Less common side effects

Recently, cases of inflammation of the heart (called myocarditis or pericarditis) have been reported very rarely after COVID-19 vaccines.

Most of these cases have been in younger men and usually a few days after the second vaccination. Most people recovered and felt better following rest and simple treatments.

**You should seek medical advice urgently if you experience:**

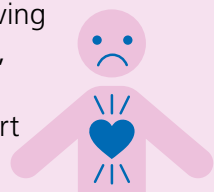
chest pain



shortness of breath



feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding heart





## Keep your record card safe

If you or your parents or carers do seek advice from a doctor or nurse, make sure you tell them about your vaccination (show them the vaccination card, if possible) so that they can assess you properly.

Don't forget your  
COVID-19 vaccination

NHS

Make sure you keep this record  
card in your purse or wallet

For more information on the  
COVID-19 vaccination or what  
to do after your vaccination,  
see [www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine)

COVID-19 immunisation  
Protect yourself.



You or your parents and carers can also report suspected side effects to vaccines and medicines online through the Yellow Card scheme.



[coronavirus-yellowcard.  
mhra.gov.uk](https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk)

## Can you catch COVID-19 from the vaccine?

You cannot catch COVID-19 from the vaccine but it is possible to have caught COVID-19 and not have the symptoms until after your vaccination appointment. The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

If you have the symptoms above, stay at home and arrange to have a test.

## What to do next

After you have had the first dose you may be given a second appointment sometime later. Your record card will show the details of the first dose.

You will be advised on the right timing for your second dose to help give the best, and longest lasting protection for you.

## If you are not well when your appointment is due

You should not attend a vaccine appointment if you are self-isolating, waiting for a COVID-19 test or within 4 weeks of having a positive COVID-19 test.

## How is COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 is spread through droplets breathed out from the nose or mouth, particularly when speaking or coughing.

It can also be picked up by touching your eyes, nose and mouth after contact with contaminated objects and surfaces.



**You MUST still follow any national or local restrictions and:**

where advised wear a face mask



wash your hands regularly



open windows to let fresh air in



follow the current guidance



[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## Further information

You or your parents should read the product information leaflet for more details on your vaccine, including possible side effects, on the Coronavirus Yellow Card website.

You can also report suspected side effects on the same website or by downloading the Yellow Card app: [coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/productinformation](https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/productinformation)

Further information is available from [nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/](https://nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/)



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If you want to order more copies of this leaflet using the product code COV2021CYPEN, please visit: [www.healthpublications.gov.uk](https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk)



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

NHS



## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

# Vaccination programme for children and young people

## Guidance for parents

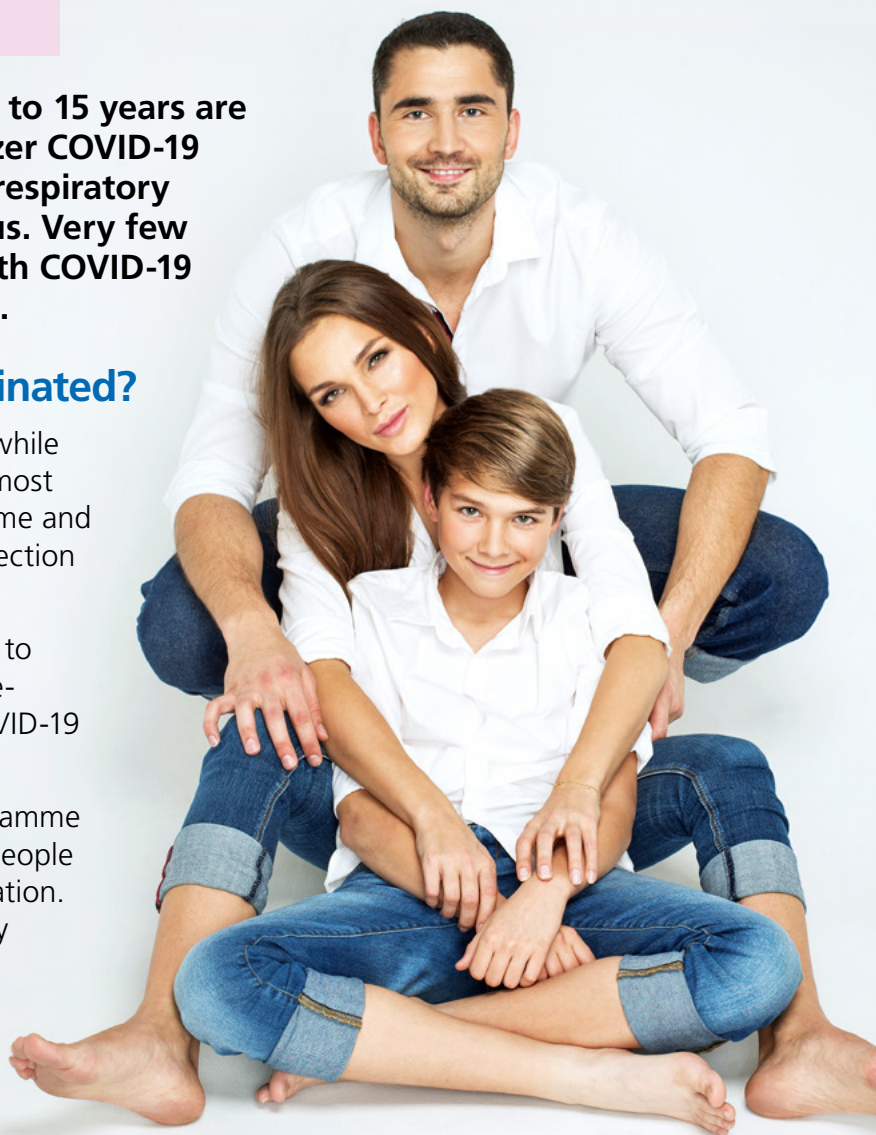
**This autumn all young people aged 12 to 15 years are being offered the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 is a very infectious respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Very few healthy children and young people with COVID-19 infection go on to have severe disease.**

### Why should I have my child vaccinated?

The UK's Chief Medical Officers all agree that while COVID-19 is typically mild or asymptomatic in most young people, it can be very unpleasant for some and one dose of the vaccine will provide good protection against severe illness and hospitalisation.

Vaccinating 12 to 15 year olds should also help to reduce the need for young people to have time-off school and reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools.

The COVID-19 secondary schools vaccine programme should therefore provide protection to young people and reduce the disruption to face to face education. This will help to keep young people emotionally well and happier and this was an important [consideration](#) for the Chief Medical Officers.





## The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccine helps to reduce the chance of COVID-19 infection and provides good protection against serious disease. It may take a few weeks to build up some protection from the first dose of vaccine.

### Is it safe for young people?

The medicines regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), has confirmed the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for 12 to 17 year olds. This followed a rigorous review of the safety, quality and effectiveness of the vaccines in this age group.

The UK has also benefited from having data from the US, Canada and Israel, which have already offered vaccines universally to young people aged 12 to 15 years.

These videos explain this in more detail:

<https://twitter.com/DHSCgovuk/status/1434441175281274890>

<https://twitter.com/DHSCgovuk/status/1405246298320637960>

### How were the vaccines developed so quickly?

All vaccines have had 3 stages of clinical trials and were tested on tens of thousands of people around the world. The trial phases were run in parallel, speeding up the overall time of vaccine production, but not the critical research time.

Since December 2020 the Pfizer vaccine has been given to millions of people in the UK and has an excellent safety record.

These videos explain this in more detail:

<https://twitter.com/DHSCgovuk/status/1375364398601039872>

<https://twitter.com/DHSCgovuk/status/1421206463297441793>

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

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

### Very rare serious side effects

Worldwide, there have been recent, very rare cases of inflammation of the heart called myocarditis or pericarditis reported after COVID-19 vaccines. Most of these people felt better following rest and simple treatments.

These cases have been seen mostly in younger males and mainly occurred within a few days of the second dose; myocarditis is extremely rare after the first dose of the vaccine.

### Will my child be observed after vaccination?

Serious allergic reactions to vaccination are very rare but tend to happen within a few minutes of the injection. School age immunisation service teams are all trained to spot and manage allergic reactions and so all children will be observed for 15 minutes.

All school age immunisation service providers will bring the necessary equipment to treat an allergic reaction.

Children with allergies to common food items are not at higher risk of these serious allergies.

## Where can I find more information on COVID-19 vaccine?

The [NHS leaflets](#) provide more information for parents and young people on the vaccine, including how it works and what to expect after COVID-19 vaccination. There are accessible versions of the consent form and leaflets available for those with a learning disability or who live with autism. We have braille and BSL videos to order or download. Translations are also available.

## How vaccines in school will work

Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccines will be administered by the school age immunisation service provider, working closely with the school.

## Eligibility and timing of vaccine

### Who can have the vaccination and when?

All young people aged 16 to 17 years of age have been offered a first dose of the vaccine

Young people aged 12 to 17 years who are at increased risk from infection or living with someone who is immunosuppressed have also been offered 2 doses of the vaccine, 8 weeks apart.

All young people aged 12 to 15 years are now being offered a first dose of the vaccine through a school based COVID-19 vaccination programme. If you are 12 years old or more on the day the vaccinations are taking place in school, you will be able to access a vaccine.

As we learn more about COVID-19 and how it responds to the vaccine, there may be future doses given to groups of young people.

### What happens if my child does not get the vaccine on the day it is offered in the school?

For any young people aged 12 to 15 years who do not receive their vaccine on the vaccine day, there will be catch-up arrangements in place that the school age immunisation service provider will be able to share with the school.

This includes any young person who turns 12 years of age after the day the school age immunisation service provider visits the school.

### What happens if my child has a health condition or is unwell on the day of the vaccine session?

If a young person is unwell on the day, the school age immunisation service provider will decide whether to proceed with vaccination or not.

A follow-up offer will be made to any children who miss the first vaccination in their school. This will help to ensure that the following pupils can access the vaccine:

- if your child turns 12 years of age after the session
- If your child is absent from school on the day
- If your child has recently had a COVID-19 infection
- if you change your mind about whether to have the vaccine or need a bit longer to reach a decision

All questions on the suitability of the vaccine for individual young people should be directed to the school age immunisation service provider delivering the vaccines, who will also be able to share information on these catch-up sessions.



## **My child is home educated and does not attend school, will they be offered a vaccine as part of this programme?**

All young people in the eligible age group who do not attend school, for example those who are home educated or living in secure accommodation, should be offered the vaccine. The school age immunisation service provider will have plans in place to offer vaccines to these young people.

## **My child is over 12 years old but in a further education college, not at school, will they be offered a vaccine as part of this programme?**

Yes. All children in the eligible age group who do not attend school should be offered the vaccine. The school age immunisation service provider will have plans in place to offer vaccination to these children.

## **My child is in a special school, will they be offered a vaccine as part of this programme?**

Yes. School age immunisation service providers are commissioned to vaccinate children in special schools.

## **Can a 12 to 15 year old use a COVID-19 walk-in site if this would be quicker?**

Unfortunately, walk-ins from this age group cannot be accepted. Presently there are no plans to make walk-in appointments available.

## **How does the consent process work?**

All parents, or those with parental responsibility, are asked for consent and will usually make this decision jointly with their children. The information leaflet is addressed to the child (as the recipient of the vaccine) and encourages them to discuss the decision about the vaccine with their parents.

In secondary schools, some young people may be mature enough to provide their own consent. This sometimes occurs if a parent has not returned a consent form but the child still wishes to have the vaccine on the day of the session. Every effort will be made to contact the parent to seek their verbal consent.

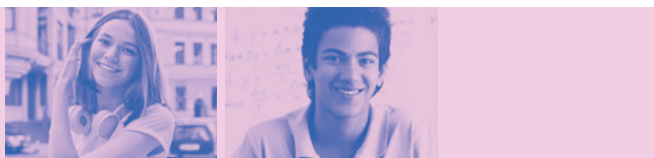
This is a well-established process which you will be familiar with from other school-based vaccination programmes.

## **Who decides whether a young person can give their own consent?**

In secondary schools, some young people will be mature enough to provide their own consent. Healthcare professionals from the schools immunisation team will speak to the young person and make every effort to contact the parent. These professionals have expertise in vaccinating young people and will be responsible for assessing whether they have enough understanding to self-consent (this is called 'Gillick competence').

This is a well-established process which you will be familiar with from other school-based vaccination programmes.

You can read the Green book of immunisation for more information on consent including Gillick competence – [www.gov.uk/government/publications/consent-the-green-book-chapter-2](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consent-the-green-book-chapter-2).



## Can parents refuse to have their child vaccinated?

Yes. The vaccine is not mandatory. Parents will be asked to give their consent for the vaccine. Young people may express a wish to have the vaccine and may have the capacity to provide informed consent themselves. Parents should be encouraged to speak to their children ahead of time so that there is agreement on consent in advance of the vaccination session.

**If no consent is received, and the young person is not Gillick competent or does not want to be vaccinated, the immunisation will not proceed.**

## What happens if a parent has not consented, but the young person wants to be vaccinated?

Young people who understand fully what is involved in a proposed procedure, such as vaccination, can legally give consent. This is known as 'Gillick competence'.

If no consent from a parent has been received, but the young person wants to be vaccinated and is judged to be Gillick competent by the healthcare professional, the young person can still be vaccinated.

In this case, the school age immunisation service provider will make every effort to contact a parent, to try and reach agreement between the parent and young person. However, the parent cannot overrule the decision of a Gillick competent young person.

You can read the Green book of immunisation for more information on consent including Gillick competence– [www.gov.uk/government/publications/consent-the-green-book-chapter-2](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consent-the-green-book-chapter-2).

## Common questions

### My child has allergies, can they have the vaccination?

There are very few children who cannot receive the vaccine.

Prior to vaccination all individuals are issued with a leaflet that outlines safety information about the vaccine. This will include a link to more detailed information about any health conditions that may prevent a young person from receiving vaccination. You can read the 'Information for UK recipients' of the Pfizer vaccines here:

<https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/productinformation>

All young people and their parents or carers should consult their clinician if they have concerns regarding allergies and COVID-19 vaccination.

### I have heard vaccines can cause irregular periods or unexpected bleeding?

Period problems are extremely common and can be caused by a variety of factors including stress and other short-term illnesses. Although some people have reported that their periods were briefly disrupted in the month after vaccination, there is no evidence that this was due to the vaccine.

### Can vaccines effect fertility?

There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility in males or in females. There is some helpful [information](#) on the website of the British Fertility Society.





**Do the vaccines contain alcohol?**

There is no alcohol in the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines which is the recommended vaccine for young people.

**Do the COVID-19 vaccines contain animal products?**

The MHRA has confirmed that the vaccines do not contain anything of animal origin. All ingredients are published in healthcare information on the MHRA's website.

This video provides more information:

<https://twitter.com/DHSCgovuk/status/1387368497517236234>

**Is the vaccine suitable for young people who are vegan/vegetarian friendly, Muslim or Jewish?**

The Pfizer vaccine does not contain any meat derivatives, animal products or any egg.

The British Islamic Medical Association have produced a helpful guide which can be found at <https://britishima.org/operation-vaccination/hub/>.

**Do the vaccines contain COVID-19?**

No, the vaccines do not contain any live virus.

## Further Information

If you have questions about the vaccine, please speak to the school age immunisation service provider. You will get their contact details with the information and consent form.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or distressed by the decision or COVID-19, please get support from [www.nhs.uk/mental-health/nhs-voluntary-charity-services/charity-and-voluntary-services/get-help-from-mental-health-helplines](https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/nhs-voluntary-charity-services/charity-and-voluntary-services/get-help-from-mental-health-helplines).

Additional information for parents and children to have conversations about the COVID-19 vaccine for 12 to 15 year olds, including how it works and what to expect after COVID-19 vaccination, is available on the following link: [COVID-19 vaccination: resources for children and young people – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people).



**Vaccination, helping to protect those most vulnerable.**