

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Sussex COVID-19 half-term catch-up clinics
 For 12 to 15 year olds who missed their vaccination in school**

If for any reason your child has not received their COVID-19 vaccine, we are running a series of catch-up clinics across Sussex between 25th October – 31st October, 2021. These sessions will not be in schools, but at sites across the county. Further details will be provided to you when you complete the steps below, but sessions are taking place in the following locations:

Date	Location
Monday 25 th October	Chichester, West Sussex
Tuesday 26 th October	Bexhill, East Sussex
Wednesday 27 th October	Bognor, West Sussex
Thursday 28 th October	Crawley, West Sussex Crowborough, East Sussex
Friday 29 th October	Crawley, West Sussex
Saturday 30 th October	Brighton & Hove
Sunday 31 st October	Brighton & Hove

The COVID-19 vaccination programme for healthy 12 to 15 year olds in the UK consists of one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. If your child has already been vaccinated they will not be vaccinated again.

Contained within this letter are some frequently asked questions and useful information about the COVID-19 vaccination. Further information is available at www.sussexhealthandcare.uk

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).

How do I give consent and book an appointment in clinic for the COVID-19 Vaccination?

If you have already completed a positive consent for COVID-19 vaccination, you do not need to complete another consent form. You will receive a separate email sent to the email address used on your consent form, containing instructions of how you can book into one of these clinics. This should arrive within the next few days, please check your junk folder.

If you have not already completed a positive consent form (this includes previously completing a negative consent, but now wish to change this to a positive consent) please complete the steps below, to consent for your child to have the COVID-19 Vaccination. Once you have done this you will receive an email containing instructions of how you can book into one of these clinics.



How consent for COVID-19 vaccination.

1. Click on the following the link: www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Covid
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: **SX147187**
4. **Complete and submit the consent form**, indicating your choice of consent - *Please ensure you provide the child's registered address and GP.*
5. **A further email will be sent to you containing information on clinic appointment booking.**

The email you will receive will contain a link and your unique booking reference number, which is required in order to book an appointment at one of the catch-up clinics. If you follow this link and no appointments are available, please do keep trying as we will be releasing new appointments over the coming days.

If you are unable to complete the online form, do not want your child to have this vaccination course, or wish to change your consent, please read the frequently asked questions for how to proceed.

If you cannot make the clinics being run during half-term, further clinics will be made available from 29th November, 2021. Please keep checking the clinic booking link emailed to you as appointments will be made available for future clinics nearer the clinic date.

We hope that the information provided helps you to make a positive decision about protecting your child against this virus.

If you cannot make any of the sessions during half-term, or your child has had COVID within 28 days prior to the vaccination clinic as so is not eligible at this time, further sessions will be made available from 29th November 2021 Details on how to book into these sessions will follow the half-term.

We hope that the information provided helps you to make a positive decision about protecting your child against this virus.

Yours sincerely

Immunisation Clinical Service Manager

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

COVID-19 vaccination ideally should not be given to anyone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19 until 28 days has passed since onset of symptoms, or positive result if asymptomatic

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

Call the Covid Schools Immunisation service on 01293 227797 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?

Please complete the online consent form following the steps in the parent letter, and indicating that you do not give consent for the COVID-19 vaccination. In the absence of a form, we will follow national guidance on children self-consenting.



Excellent care at the heart of the community

What if I have already consented?

You do not need to complete another consent form. You will receive a separate email sent to the email address used on your consent form, containing instructions of how you can book into one of these clinics. This should arrive within the next few days, please check your junk folder.

What if they want the vaccination but, as a parent / guardian, we would rather they didn't have it?

If you do not want your child to have these vaccinations, 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 during these catch-up sessions. 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 into a further catch up clinic.

What happens if one parent/carer consent but the other doesn't?

If we receive 2 forms with one consenting and another not giving consent we will not vaccinate your child in school. If you completed a positive consent you will receive an email, sent to the email address provided when completing the online form, containing details of how to book into a catch up clinic. During the catch-up clinic, if your child consents to having the vaccination, and is assessed as having capacity to make an informed decision, we would proceed with the vaccination.

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

You must contact the Covid Schools Immunisation service on 01293 227797 to change your consent and cancel your appointment prior to the day of the vaccination clinic.

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 into a catch up clinic.

My child has another vaccine booked in; 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, whereas influenza (LAIV) is a live nasal spray 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 catch-up sessions?

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

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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 vaccine has undergone rigorous safety testing before being licensed for use in the UK. It is a well-established vaccine with a known safety profile, and like all other vaccines, unwanted reactions are constantly monitored. Information around the vaccine is available from www.sussexhealthandcare.uk

