

COVID-19 vaccination for at risk 5 to 11-year-olds Frequently Asked Questions

Which children should have the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation has recommended that all 5 to 11-year-olds who are at high risk from Covid-19 due to a health condition should have the vaccine. It is also recommended for children of this age who live with someone who is immunosuppressed. This is to reduce the risk of them passing on the infection to their family members.

Which conditions mean my child is at higher risk from COVID-19?

Children at serious risk from the complications of COVID-19 infection include those with:

- Severe neurodisabilities ^[1]_[SEP]
- A weakened immune system (immunosuppression)
- profound and multiple or severe learning disabilities ^[1]_[SEP]
- being on the learning disability register ^[1]_[SEP]
- Down's syndrome ^[1]_[SEP]
- long term serious conditions affecting their body, including chronic heart or respiratory disease or conditions affecting the kidneys, liver or digestive system.

How do I get an appointment for my child?

If your child is eligible for the vaccine, your child's GP or hospital consultant will contact you if they need to have the vaccine and tell you how to book an appointment. They will be in touch over the coming weeks so please wait to hear and do not contact your GP practice.

For children who live with someone who is immunosuppressed, the person who is immunosuppressed will be written to with details of how to make an appointment for them.

Where will children be vaccinated?

Most children will be offered an appointment at a centre run by local GPs or at the hospital where they are treated. Some appointments may also be offered in special schools.

Extra time will be allowed for child appointments and staff will be specially trained in vaccinating this age group. If your child needs any reasonable adjustments at their appointment to enable them to have their vaccination, please let the service know when you book your appointment so this can be put in place.

Who will give my child their vaccination?

The vaccines will be given by staff who have been specially trained in communicating with and vaccinating children of these ages, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

What vaccine will they have?

Children will be given two child-sized doses of the Pfizer vaccine, usually 8 weeks apart. Each vaccine is a third of the dose that is given to older children and adults.

Can the Covid vaccine be given as a nasal spray like the flu vaccine?

No, the COVID-19 vaccine is currently only available as an injection.

Does my child still need to be vaccinated if they have had Covid-19?

Yes, however they will need to wait 4 weeks from when they tested positive before they can have their first or second vaccine.