



**Berkshire School Aged Immunisation Team**

Email: [consentschoolimms@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:consentschoolimms@berkshire.nhs.uk)

Date: Spring Term 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5-11 who are at high risk of serious illness from COVID-19**

The school-aged immunisation team are the main provider of all routine immunisations for school aged children who live, attend a school or who are registered with a GP in Berkshire.

Due to the team's skills, experience, and expertise in working with this age group we are working with East Berkshire Primary Care Networks to identify, support and vaccinate children aged 5-11 who are identified as being at high risk of serious illness from the COVID-19 virus. This includes children aged 5-11 with:

- severe neurodisabilities
- immunosuppression— those whose immune systems don't work as well
- profound and multiple or severe learning disabilities
- being on the learning disability register
- those with Down's syndrome
- those with long term serious conditions affecting their body. Your GP will know if they need to have the vaccine

The vaccine is also recommended for those children living with people who have a weakened immune system (who are immunosuppressed). This is to reduce the risk of them passing on the infection to their family members.

COVID-19 is a very infectious respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Most children who get COVID-19 have no symptoms. Those that do, have mild symptoms like a bad cold. A few children and young people will get very poorly and must go to hospital. Children will be offered the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Each vaccine is a third of the dose of vaccine that is given to older children and adults. Your child needs 2 injections of the vaccine usually 8 weeks apart. For further information of the 5-11 COVID-19 vaccination programme visit [COVID-19 vaccination: resources for children aged 5 to 11 years - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-aged-5-to-11-years)

In the East of Berkshire eligible 5–11-year-olds may be offered their COVID-19 vaccination in a variety of settings including GP surgeries, mass vaccination sites and local vaccination centres but for some children, these environments may not be suitable for their individual needs. Sometimes vaccination within a child's specialist school setting can be less traumatic, as it is considered a safe and positive environment. It is also providing easy access, with additional support from staff who are familiar with your child's social, emotional, and physical needs.

We will be visiting your child's school **Manor Green School** on **03/05/2022**. If your child falls into one of the above 'at risk' groups and you would like them to be vaccinated within their specialist school setting, please use the following link [Vaccination Consent \(berkshireimmunisations.co.uk\)](https://berkshireimmunisations.co.uk) and school code **BK110183** to complete a form. **If you previously completed a consent form for your child, you do not need to complete a new form for this vaccine.**

Kind Regards,

**Berkshire School-aged Immunisation Team**