

Adults' Health and Care  
Public Health  
Elizabeth II West  
The Castle  
Winchester  
Hampshire SO23 8UQ

Telephone 0370 779 5505  
Fax 01962 834560  
DX Winchester 2510  
[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

Enquiries to	Simon Bryant	My reference	
Direct line		Your reference	
Date	6 June 2022	E-mail	<a href="mailto:Covid.enquiries@hants.gov.uk">Covid.enquiries@hants.gov.uk</a>

Dear Parent / Guardian

I have been working closely with the NHS to support the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme for children who are aged 5 – 11 years old.

Vaccinations for all children in this age group became available on 1 April 2022. Children with certain health conditions, who are at a higher risk from COVID-19, should already have been invited for vaccination and remain eligible with all children. For more information on these health conditions, you can read the guide available [here](#) ([A guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years at high risk - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)) or talk to your specialist or GP.

You can access the vaccine for your child through vaccination centres, local pharmacies and GPs. There has been an overwhelming response from parents who would like to vaccinate their children and teams across Hampshire have been working hard to provide additional capacity.

Throughout May the vaccination teams have been running Super Sunday events offering an extra 3,500 appointments for 5 – 11 year olds. Some sites are offering a family service where anyone of any age can get vaccinated at the same time.

You can find your nearest vaccination site via the [NHS website](#), by calling 119 or by calling the **Hampshire and Isle of Wight COVID-19 helpline on 0300 561 0018** which can help you find and book slots or direct you to your nearest walk-in. New sites and vaccination slots are uploaded all the time so please check regularly.

Director of Adults' Health and Care  
**Graham Allen**

Chief Executive  
**Carolyn Williamson**

As a parent myself I can understand that you may have some questions in relation to the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine for children. Please get your information about the vaccine from trusted sources; [the government website](#) and [this local NHS website](#)

You can find out more information via the [NHS website](#) but here are some important points to bring to your attention.

- COVID-19 is usually mild in most children, but it can make some unwell
- 1 dose of the COVID-19 vaccine gives good protection, but 2 doses gives a stronger and longer-lasting protection against future COVID-19 variants
- Getting your child vaccinated now will start that protection, allowing time to have a second dose which will give them the best protection over the winter.
- Vaccinating children can reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection to your child and those around them
- Most children can get a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose from 12 weeks after their 1<sup>st</sup>. This is 8 weeks for children with health conditions and who are high risk
- Current advice is that there needs to also be a 12 week gap between a positive COVID-19 test and a dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. This is 4 weeks for children with health conditions and who are high risk
- If your child has had symptoms of COVID-19 but has not had a test, they should wait until they are better, and discuss this with a healthcare professional at the vaccination site
- If you have booked an appointment but can no longer attend, please remember to cancel

I do hope this letter has been useful. If you have any questions, please call the local Hampshire and Isle of Wight COVID-19 helpline 0300 561 0018 who will be best placed to help answer and guide you.

Yours sincerely



**Simon Bryant FFPH**  
**Director of Public Health**  
**Hampshire County Council**

*Director of Adults' Health and Care*  
**Graham Allen**

*Chief Executive*  
**Carolyn Williamson**