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Dear Parent/Carer

You may have heard that the COVID-19 vaccination programme is now being offered to all children and young people aged 12-15.

We will shortly be providing you with information on how the vaccine will be provided to children and young people in your local area.

Children in this age group will be offered the Pfizer vaccination. In order to be confident in the rollout of the vaccine to children and young people, the UK has looked at the roll out of vaccination in the USA, Canada and Israel and information from these countries has been used to make the decision here in the UK.

Although healthy children and young people may not become very ill with COVID, the virus has caused disruption to the education of many children and affected their mental health and well-being. We also know that vaccination can prevent the virus being spread from person to person and therefore has the potential to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community. It is these benefits of being vaccinated which have been considered and led to the decision to offer vaccination to all 12-15 year olds.

Like any childhood immunisation or vaccination, vaccination is not compulsory and can only take place where there is consent to do so.

Consent can only be given by you (until the child is able to make this decision for themselves). Information will be made available to help you and your child make this decision, and your child will not be vaccinated without consent.

We fully support the decision to offer vaccination to this age group.

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Please do take the time to read the additional information which is provided in the link below to help you and your child to make an informed decision on having the COVID-19 vaccination.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1017171/PHE_12073_COVID-19_guide_for_all_CYP.pdf

Yours sincerely



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Dr Peter Ingham

GP and clinical lead for vaccinations