

COVID Vaccine for 5 - 11 year olds



We have had many parents call up the surgery to ask about whether they should vaccinate their children who are between the ages of 5 - 11 with no significant underlying health problems.

We understand it is not straight forward and this is an individual decision for parents to make. With this in mind we have put together some of the 'headline' information for you below to try and help you make a decision.

- 1) **The JCVI's (Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation) conclusion is that, overall, the potential health benefits of vaccination are greater than the potential health risks.**
- 2) **Children will be offered two 10 µg doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine with an interval of at least 12 weeks between doses.**
- 3) **It is estimated over 85% of all children aged 5-11 will have had prior COVID infection by the end of January 2022, with roughly half of these infections due to the omicron variant. Natural immunity arising from prior infection will contribute towards protection against future infection and severe disease.**
- 4) **Current evidence suggests that immunity from vaccination is more prolonged than natural immunity gained from having had COVID infection.**
- 5) **In comparison with the rest of the population, children aged 5-11 have the very lowest risk from COVID-19. However, vaccination of this group is anticipated to prevent a small number of hospital and intensive care admissions and will provide short term protection against non-severe infection.**
- 6) **However, the JCVI says that the extent of the effects in point 5 above is highly uncertain and is closely related to the timing, size, and severity of any future waves of infection.**
- 7) **The JCVI says that it cannot determine the impact of vaccination on school absences.**

For more detailed information please click on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-update-on-advice-for-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-aged-5-to-11/jcvi-statement-on-vaccination-of-children-aged-5-to-11-years-old>