

Moat Community College Maidstone Road, Leicester, LE2 OTU Principal Mr. B Killeen 0116 2625705 office@moat.leicester.sch.uk moat.leicester.sch.uk

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are well. Our students have continued the very good start that they have made to term. The atmosphere in school is calm and purposeful. Our students are working hard and are determined to make up for lost time.

#### **Covid Vaccinations**

The government have made the decision to offer the covid vaccine to all young people between the ages of 12 to 15. The vaccine will be offered in school and will be given by our School Nurse team. I have attached the letter from the NHS which explains why the vaccine has been offered and how it will be administered.

The School Nurse team will be giving the vaccine at Moat on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October **There is a link in the NHS letter which should be used if you would like to consent to your child having the vaccine.** Taking the vaccine is entirely voluntary; we are seeking your consent to allow your sons/daughters to take the vaccine. I do urge you to give consent, as the higher the uptake of the vaccine the safer we all are. Nearly every member of the Moat staff is now fully vaccinated.

#### **Covid Vaccination Webinars**

In order to help answer any of your questions and allow you to make an informed decision with your child regarding the vaccine, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, in collaboration with the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities, are holding some webinar Q&A sessions for parents.

The webinars, which are being hosted by a panel of health professionals, will include:

- An overview of COVID-19, including the risk of infection
- Information about the Pfizer vaccine being offered
- Details of how the vaccination sessions for young people will be run
- An opportunity for you to ask questions.

The sessions will take place on the following dates:

- 1. Tuesday 28 September 6pm-7pm join: <u>https://zoom.us/j/99248286368?pwd=YUxHUnF5WUdiTGlvalVnTWIFWHBIQT09</u> Meeting ID: 992 4828 6368 Passcode: 987229
- 2. Wednesday 6 October 6pm-7pm join:

https://zoom.us/j/92929689468?pwd=RWVkS0h3ZnNoUUJnb05mMDdNeHQ2Q T09

Meeting ID: 929 2968 9468 Passcode: 909497









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#### **Covid Testing**

I urge you to ensure that your son/daughter completes two lateral flow covid tests each week. These tests ensure that students who have the virus remain at home. This contributes to keeping us all safer. The results of the covid tests can be reported to school here: <u>Reporting Covid Test Results - Students</u>

#### **Parents Evening**

We intend to continue to offer on-line Parents' Evening, via School Cloud for this academic year. The system worked very well last year and was well received by parents. Our first Parents' Evening is for year 11 on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

We intend to offer additional support this year to parents who are unable to access the Parents' Evening at home at home. We will have facilities in school for a number of parents to come in and log onto the Parents' Evening from school. However, appointments will still have to be made using School cloud before the event. If you are unable to do this for any reason, please contact the school office for support.

The numbers that will be able to come into school are limited. If you would like to come into school to access the on-line parents' evening, please contact the school office to book a place.

Thank you for your support. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

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Mr Killeen Principal











A university teaching and research-active Trust Bridge Park Plaza Bridge Park Road Thurmaston Leicester LE4 8PQ www.leicspart.nhs.uk

September 2021

Dear Mr B Killeen,

The UK's Chief Medical Officers have recommended that the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination should be offered to all healthy children aged 12-15 years. Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust's Community Immunisation Service will be providing this vaccination service in schools throughout Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

COVID-19 is a very infectious respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Very few healthy children and young people with COVID-19 infection go on to have severe disease.

Vaccinating children should help to reduce the need for children to have time off school and to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools. The COVID-19 vaccination programme in secondary schools will therefore provide protection to children who are vaccinated and help to reduce disruption to face to face education this winter.

We are grateful for the support that schools provide by hosting NHS vaccination sessions. Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccines will be administered by healthcare staff with appropriate qualifications who work to nationally agreed standards. Vaccines are offered in schools to ensure easy access for all children.

For more information about the role of schools in this vaccination programme, please see the Government website here: <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-children-and-young-people-guidance-for-schools</u>

According to our records and based on the ages of the young people in your school, **Moat Community College**, we will be offering you a session on: **Tuesday, 5 October 2021** 

Due to pressing need to mobilise this programme, all scheduled session dates between 22<sup>nd</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 originally organised to deliver the HPV and flu vaccination programmes, will now be utilised to provide the COVID-19 programme.

- Flu sessions will be rescheduled within the flu season. Further details to follow after the autumn half-term break.
- HPV sessions will be rescheduled within the same academic year. Further details to follow in spring term.

Trust Headquarters: Bridge Park Plaza, Bridge Park Road, Thurmaston, Leicester. LE4 8PQ Chair: Cathy Ellis Chief Executive: Angela Hillery We are a smoke-free Trust.



View our privacy notice at www.leicspart.nhs.uk/\_Aboutus-Whatwedowithyourinformationprivacynotice.aspx

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic will have impacted the way that your school works (for example, introducing social distancing measures and operating in 'bubbles') and we are keen to work alongside you to support the safety of children, young people and school staff to deliver these important vaccines to your students.

While guidance from the Department of Education states that school staff do NOT routinely need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), our practitioners will continue to do so. This is because they may be visiting several children or young people from different 'bubbles'/groups within a school, and/or more than one school in a day. Wearing PPE reduces the risk of transmission of infection.

The planning for the school immunisation programme this year has been more complex than usual, and we are keen to work closely with schools to ensure that children are offered their vaccinations within recommended timeframes, to ensure they get the vital protection they need.

Due to the complexity of the planning and delivery of the programme to all schools across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, unfortunately our flexibility around alternative dates is extremely limited. In the event you cannot accommodate the team in school on the planned date and time, or you have any activities scheduled which are likely to clash, please let us know. If there are unforeseen circumstances, e.g., delay in national vaccine supply, we may need to change your session date and should that situation arise, we will provide as much notice to you as possible.

We request that you circulate the invitation letters to parents and carers electronically. The consent forms must be completed online and submitted forms will be directly received by the Community Immunisation Service. As a school, you will also be able to view the online system to monitor and help to encourage returns.

Young people who are clinically at risk\* (see examples of medical conditions below) are signposted in the letter enclosed for parents and young people to contact our clinics booking team on 0116 4975700 so that they can discuss specialist support or clinics for them.

We understand some parents may have questions regarding the vaccinations that are available to their children. Here is a weblink to the patient information leaflets that you can share: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-forchildren-and-young-people. This is also signposted in the letter enclosed for parents and young people.

# We will be putting on some online Q&A sessions for parents with a panel of health professionals in the coming weeks. These will be advertised on Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust's social media accounts and we will also inform you when they are taking place so you can share with parents.

It is acknowledged that delivering this vaccination in school will create some disruption to the school day. We believe the 'essential things' guide enclosed in this pack will help to keep disruption to a minimum. We know that some schools are receiving campaign letters of protest. Please advise us of any concerns, and of your security arrangements. In the event of a protest or disruptive activity outside a school, or if schools know a protest is planned,

please alert us, the Local Authority and police contacts to discuss the best way to manage the situation.

We strive to continually improve our service and welcome your feedback. We have implemented a number of changes to the way we work based on the feedback received in previous years. We look forward to working in partnership with your school to protect the health and wellbeing of children, young people, and local communities.

As in previous years, we hope to continue to work closely with the Immunisation Link person at your school. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Immunisation Service on tel: 0300 3000 007 or via email: communityimmunisations.service@nhs.net

Yours sincerely,

Suzarne L. Leatherland.

Clinical Lead Children's COVID-19 Programme Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust

#### \*clinically at risk is classified as having any of the following medical conditions:

- severe neurodisabilities
- immunosuppression those whose immune systems don't work as well and also those who live with someone who is immunosuppressed
- profound and multiple or severe learning disabilities
- being on the learning disability register
- those living with Down's syndrome
- those living with long term serious conditions affecting your body.

# Guide to the vaccination programmes

COVID-19 vaccination 12-15 years of age	
Who is the vaccination being offered to?	<ul> <li>The COVID-19 vaccination is being offered to all children aged 12-15 years of age as part of the national vaccination programme.</li> <li>Following the CMO announcement on 13th September 2021, this vaccine is to be offered from September to the end of October 2021</li> </ul>
What does it protect against and why vaccinate?	<ul> <li>The vaccination helps to reduce the chance of COVID-19 infection and provides good protection against serious disease. It may take a few weeks to build up some protection from the first dose.</li> <li>COVID-19 is a very infectious respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.</li> <li>Very few healthy children and young people with COVID-19 infection go on to have severe disease. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment.</li> </ul>
What benefits does this offer for schools?	Vaccinating children should help to reduce the need for children to have time off school and should reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools. The main purpose of the COVID-19 secondary schools vaccination programme is therefore to provide protection to the children who are vaccinated and to reduce the disruption to face to face education this winter. Educational benefits may include:
	• reducing the chance of outbreaks of COVID-19 in schools.
	• avoiding absenteeism due to COVID-19 infection and for isolation.
What vaccine is going to be given and how?	<ul> <li>At this time, the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine is the only vaccine authorised for persons aged 12 to 17 years in the UK. The Conditional Marketing Authorisation for Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2 came into effect on 9 July 2021, with approval previously being provided under <u>Regulation 174</u>.</li> <li>The vaccination is given as an injection in the upper arm.</li> <li>Please note that the vaccines used do not contain gelatine or alcohol.</li> <li>If a young person requires a second dose, due to underlying health condition an invite will be sent either by their GP.</li> </ul>

Further information, including frequently asked questions about the vaccine can be found on the Gov.uk website here: <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-children-and-young-people-guidance-for-schools</u>

## How will consent be sought from parents/carers?

- We ask that you distribute an electronic letter to young people and parents/carers. The letter will contain information about the vaccination and links to NHS websites, should they require more information about the vaccine.
- Please note that we collect consent from parents and carers for each individual vaccination programme.
- The letter will also have a web link to the <u>www.leicsandrutlandimms.co.uk</u> site for online consent, and a unique code for your school. Parents and young people will need this code to access and complete the form.
- The unique school code for your school is LE120292.
- Mature young people can consent for themselves without agreement from parents and carers and health professionals will consider their ability to make this decision.
- Should you need paper copies of the letter, let us know and we will arrange for these to be sent to you.



### How will consent be managed?

- We will work with you to help you manage the number of completed consent forms.
- We have introduced a system which allows you to register with the online consent system to see which pupils we have received parent/carer consent from ahead of the session. *Instructions on how to register on the online system have been sent to you previously.*

### What working space will you require?

- We will need sufficient space for the staff to have a workstation each, (consisting of I table and 2 chairs, which can be easily wiped down) whilst practicing social distancing and for young people to be able to move into and out of the area safely. The administrators will need to be stationed at of the entrance to the room that the staff are working in.
- The Lead Immunisation Nurse can clarify any details should you have any additional questions.
- A dynamic risk assessment will need to be completed by the Trust for each venue visited due to COVID-19 on the day of the visit.
- Each child will be needed to wait 15 minutes after vaccination where they will be observed by a member of the team before they can be cleared to re-join their class. A waiting area in the same space or directly adjacent to the vaccination area will be required.

• Six staff members or more will be present at the session.

# How will things run on the day of the session?

- Based on your school activities on the day, you may wish to identify a running order for the classes. The Lead Immunisation Nurse will work with you on the day to help ensure the process runs as smoothly as possible.
- Please can you identify to us young people with any special needs who may need additional support during the vaccination. This will ensure that robust arrangements are in place for assessing and vaccinating these young people.
- Young people will need approximately 20-25 minutes for the vaccination (this includes the 15 minutes after vaccination waiting time).

# What if the child or young person is not in school or unwell on the day of vaccinations?

- Every child or young person will be assessed by the Immunisation Nurse to determine if they are well enough on the day to have the vaccine. If they are deemed not fit enough, the nurse will advise school staff accordingly.
- It is vital that children or young person and any members of their household are not exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of the vaccination session. If any member of the household is symptomatic, then the child should not be attending the vaccine appointment. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:
  - $\circ$   $\,$  High temperature you feel hot to the touch on your chest or back  $\,$
  - $\circ$  A new continuous cough this means you have started coughing repeatedly.
  - A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.
- If the young person is absent on the day, an additional opportunity will be made available for vaccination.

## Are there side effects from the vaccine?

- Like any medicine, there may be some side effects experienced. Most young people do not get any side effects, whilst others will get a few. Side effects should resolve within 2-3 days.
- Information about the vaccination given along with some post-vaccination advice will be issued electronically.
- Every child or young person will need to be assessed individually in the event they become unwell whilst at school.