

Dear parent/carer

Due to changes in guidance from the Joint Committee for Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) which came into effect from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021, it is now advised that covid vaccines are administered at least 12 weeks after testing positive for covid.

The JCVI has found that in younger people, protection from natural infection is likely to be high for a period of months, and vaccination in those recently infected may increase the chance of side effects. Therefore, **vaccination should ideally be deferred till at least twelve weeks from onset (or sample date) in children and young people under 18 years who are not in clinical risk groups**, although earlier administration can be considered in those at risk of infection and/or who are fully recovered.

#### **Parents who have consented No or did not complete a consent form**

Your child will not be offered a covid vaccine, only those parents/carers who returned a yes consent will be offered the vaccine if eligible.

#### **Children who have already received a covid vaccine**

If your child has already received the vaccine then no action needs to be taken, the reason for the change is due to the ongoing clinical data showing increased immunity in young children following a positive covid test and possible increased unwanted side effects following vaccination which can be unpleasant for children.

#### **Children who are due to have a covid vaccine and tested positive in the last 12 weeks**

If the covid vaccination team are due into the school and your child has tested positive for covid in the last 12 weeks, then they will not be vaccinated as part of the school vaccination programme. To book your child a covid vaccination following a positive covid test please ring 119 or visit the NHS website for further advice.

#### **Children who are due to have their covid vaccine and have NOT tested positive for covid in the last 12 weeks**

Your child will be vaccinated in school as part of the covid vaccination programme if a consent form was completed and your child is eligible.



### **Important information**

Going forward and looking at the best way to manage the school programme we are working with the schools to ensure we are aware of all covid positive test dates to enable those eligible for the vaccine to be vaccinated in school. Please discuss with your child their covid status and if they are asked as part of the covid vaccination programme they will be able to answer this question confidently. Please be aware If your child attends for a covid vaccine in school and they are unsure of their covid status, we will initially attempt to contact you with the number you have provided on the consent form, but if we are unable to do so then the vaccine cannot be given.

Only children aged 12 -15 years of age will be vaccinated as part of the school vaccination programme.

Please note only 1<sup>st</sup> dose of the vaccine can be offered. Those children who are eligible for a 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine need to seek advice from their g.p or visit a local vaccination centre.

Thank you for your understanding and support in the ongoing and evolving covid vaccination programme.

Kind regards

CHCP covid vaccination team in partnership with IntraHealth