



Media Release

embargo until time/date

Date: 2 February 2022

HSC again aligns with JCVI advice on vaccine rollout for young people

The Committee for Health & Social Care has again agreed to align the Bailiwick's vaccination programme with the UK's, following recent changes brought in based on advice from the JCVI.

Booster dose

It means that the following cohorts of children and young people will now be offered a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine, no sooner than three months after completion of their primary course:

- Young people aged 16 to 17 years old
- Children and young people aged 12 to 15 who are in a clinical risk group or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed
- Children and young people aged 12 to 15 who are severely immunosuppressed and who have had a third primary dose

Invites will be sent to 16-17 year olds inviting them for their booster once the young person becomes eligible. However, if anyone in this cohorts believes they are already eligible they can contact the Vaccination Call Centre on 01481 220006.

Three months have not yet passed for the majority of the 12-15 year old cohort since their second dose. Invitations will be sent out when people become eligible.

Primary dose

The JCVI recommends that children aged 5 to 11 years old who are in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed, should be offered two doses of the Pfizer vaccine with an interval of eight weeks between the first and second doses.

HSC's clinical teams are working closely on preparations for to offer the vaccine to this cohort. Parents and carers of children who meet the criteria will be notified directly in

coming weeks and further information will be published on the vaccination section of the States of Guernsey's COVID website soon.

Deputy Al Brouard, President of the Committee for Health & Social Care, said:

'Offering the option of the vaccine to young people requires careful consideration and our Committee has done that throughout the development and progression of our vaccination programme. We have aligned with the advice of the JCVI to date and took the decision that we would again do so on this occasion with these specific cohorts. Children, young people and their parents need to be supported in having appropriate conversations about whether to take up this offer, and we always ensure the invitation letters contain relevant information to help support those discussions.'