



Media Release

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HSC again aligns with JCVI advice on vaccine rollout for children

The Committee for Health & Social Care has again agreed to align the Bailiwick's vaccination programme with the UK's, following recent advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation in relation to 5 to 11 year olds.

Previously, in December 2021, the JCVI recommended 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.

The JCVI has since reviewed evidence on the potential impact of extending COVID-19 vaccination to other children aged 5 to 11. In updated guidance, which can be found at [JCVI statement on vaccination of children aged 5 to 11 years old - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/jcvi-statement-on-vaccination-of-children-aged-5-to-11-years-old), the JCVI advises a non-urgent offer of two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to children aged 5 to 11 years of age who are not in a clinical risk group. The two doses should be offered with an interval of at least 12 weeks between doses.

HSC's clinical teams are working on preparations to offer the vaccine to this cohort, with invitation letters being sent to parents of children in this cohort in due course.

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

'Whenever our Committee has received advice about the option of offering the vaccine to young people, we have always given it very careful consideration. We have always sought to align our vaccination programme with the advice of the JCVI and, following a review of its latest guidance on offering the vaccine for 5 to 11 year olds, we took the decision that we would again align. When we send out invitation letters, we always ensure they contain relevant information to help support healthy discussions between parents and their children before they make whatever decision is right for them.'