

07 April 2022

Dear parent or guardian,

I am writing today to offer you the opportunity and choice to protect your child against COVID-19 through vaccination.

For decades, vaccinations have protected our children and young people from potentially serious diseases, including measles, flu, meningitis and mumps. By the time they leave school, children are offered vaccinations against 18 different diseases or infections – the COVID-19 vaccine is one more vaccine that children can now receive to protect them from illness.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommends that 5–11-year-olds are offered the vaccine, which has been approved by the UK's medicines regulator, to boost immunity and increase their protection against any future waves of COVID-19. We want to support you and your family to make an informed choice and to make things convenient and child-friendly if you decide to get it.

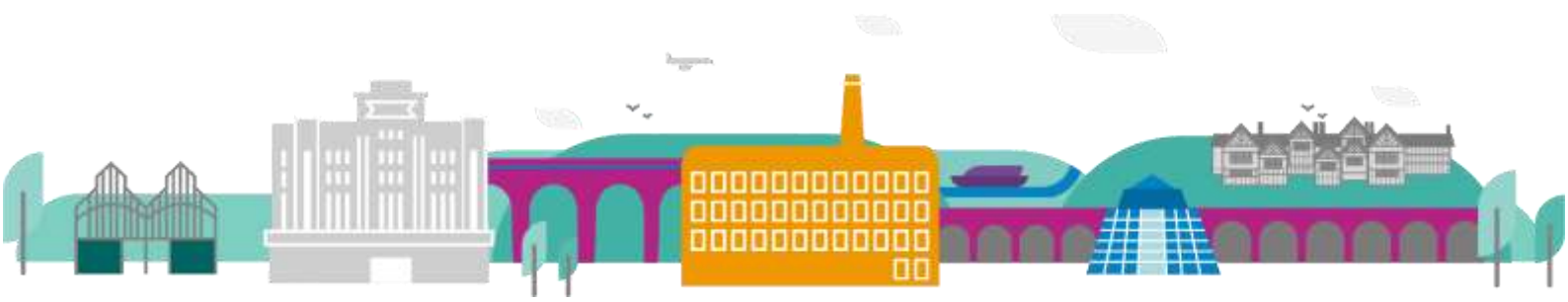
The COVID-19 vaccine is already making a big difference to help protect us all. The vaccine does not remove the virus, but research and experience in countries around the world shows it can prevent the worst effects of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of infection to your child and those around them.

You can get your child vaccinated at a site and time convenient for you – at vaccination centres, pharmacies and GPs offering jabs for this age group. You can view these sites and make an appointment through the National Booking Service at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or by calling 119 free.

Some walk-in sites are also available to vaccinate this age group and older siblings, or other family members, can be vaccinated together at the same time. The One Stockport Hub on Merseyway will be offering vaccines for 5–11-year-olds and other family members each Wednesday to Saturday (excluding Good Friday) until 23 April and then every Saturday until at least the end of April. Please see our website at <https://www.stockportccg.nhs.uk/news/covid-19-vaccination-options/> for opening hours and other details.

Children aged 5-11 will be offered two child doses of the vaccine, with at least 12 weeks between doses. A child dose is smaller than doses given to those aged 12 and over.

If a child has had COVID-19 they will still get extra protection from the vaccine, but they will need to wait 12 weeks from their infection before getting vaccinated.





Those 5–11-year-olds [who are more at risk from the virus](#) can already get two child doses, eight weeks apart, and their GP or hospital specialist should have been in touch to arrange this. If this hasn't happened yet, please contact your GP surgery.

Further information about the vaccine can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-aged-5-to-11-years>.

If you have any questions about this vaccine that aren't answered on the website, please telephone 0161 474 5912 for further advice.

Best wishes,

Jennifer Connolly
Director of Public Health
Stockport Council

