

## Vaccination options in Buckinghamshire for young people aged 16 - 17 years old

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As schools and colleges begin to welcome students back for the new term, NHS Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group would like to highlight the options available for young people to get their COVID-19 vaccination.

As you may be aware, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), which advises the Government on which vaccines to use, recommends that young people aged 16-17 should be offered COVID-19 vaccinations. You can read the JCVI's <u>full advice on this matter here</u>.

The NHS is encouraging young people to get protected against the virus as soon as possible, to help them and others stay safe as they return to school or college this September. The more that young people are vaccinated, the more we can reduce new cases and the severity of symptoms they may experience if they do become infected by COVID-19.

A number of options are available in Buckinghamshire for young people aged 16-17 to get their COVID-19 vaccination. These include both bookable appointments at certain vaccination sites and also the option of attending some 'walk-in' sites.

As the availability of these sites is changing frequently, we would advise that you please check the <u>Local Vaccination Information</u> page of the Buckinghamshire CCG website for the most up-to-date information on where vaccinations are available for this age group.

You can also use the <u>NHS Grab-a-Jab</u> website, which can tell you where your nearest available 'walk-in' vaccination clinics for 16-17 year-olds are.

If you would instead prefer to book a vaccination appointment, you can do that at the <u>National Booking System</u> website or by calling 119.

Please be aware that, in most cases, young people aged 16-17 will be offered one jab at this time, unless they are in the clinically vulnerable category (in which case they will be offered a second).

The JCVI also advises that children aged 12-15 with specific health conditions, or who live with a person who is severely immunosuppressed, should also be offered the vaccine. Patients (or their parents or guardians) in this category can expect to be contacted by their GP shortly, if they have not been already.

Thank you very much for your support, and we wish you and your children a safe and healthy year ahead.

Simon Kearey

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