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Health Board

## Information about COVID-19 Vaccination for Parents and Guardians of Children and Young People aged 12-15

### Dear Parent

As you may be aware, the UK's Chief Medical Officers have recommended that all people aged 12-15 who are not already covered by existing COVID-19 vaccination programmes should be offered a first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Their advice has been adopted by all four UK Governments including the Welsh Government. Work is now under way across the country to offer COVID-19 vaccination to all children and young people aged 12-15 who have not previously received an invitation.

Across Wales, most COVID-19 vaccination for 12-15 year olds will be offered in Mass Vaccination Centres. This is also the approach we are taking in Powys. All 12-15 year olds who are registered with a GP in Powys will receive an invitation from Powys Teaching Health Board for an appointment at one of our mass vaccination centres:

- Powys Teaching Health Board will send an invitation to your home address inviting the person age 12-15 to an appointment accompanied by their parent or guardian. Invitation letters will normally be received before the end of October.
- The appointment will be at a mass vaccination centre. These are located in Bronllys, Builth Wells & Newtown. Appointments will normally be offered during the evening or weekend, at clinic sessions specifically for people under the age of 18.
- We encourage you to attend at the time you are offered wherever possible. This will help us to offer vaccination to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible. If you are not able to attend at the time you have been offered then please use the contact details in your booking letter to request an alternative.
- If there is more than one person aged 12-15 in your household then you can bring them all at the same time for a vaccination appointment, even if you receive separate invitation letters. Vaccination is not currently available for children under the age of 12.
- Based on UK guidance, most children aged 12-15 are offered one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Some children with underlying health conditions are more vulnerable to serious illness from COVID-19 and are being offered two doses.

12-15 year olds who are registered with a GP in a neighbouring county in Wales will receive their invitation from their local Health Board. 12-15 year olds who are registered with a GP in England will receive an invitation from their local vaccination programme in England.

The vaccine is **not** mandatory and people can choose whether to have the vaccine or not. There will be appropriate information made available for children and young people and their parents to make up their minds about vaccination. We will be asking that parents or guardians attend the vaccination appointment with the young person, and we encourage parents, guardians, children and young people to discuss together whether or not to have the vaccination.

Public Health Wales has put together some useful information overleaf to help you make the decision that is right for you.

This information is also available from the Powys Teaching Health Board website at **[pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine](https://pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine)** (click on the link on our page for "12-15").

Your invitation letter will also provide further information about the COVID-19 vaccine and your appointment.

With high rates of coronavirus in all parts of Wales it is vital that we all take steps to protect ourselves and our loved ones. The key steps for secondary school pupils include:

- Follow all the guidance provided to you by your school.
- If you have symptoms: stay at home and get a PCR test.
- If you have no symptoms: keep doing regular lateral flow tests and report all your results.
- Get the vaccine if you are offered it.
- Wash your hands regularly.
- Wear face coverings when needed.

More information about Test Trace Protect (TTP) including COVID testing options in Powys is available from our website at **[pthb.nhs.wales/find/ttp](https://pthb.nhs.wales/find/ttp)**

Thank you for everything you continue to do to Keep Powys Safe.

***Stuart Bourne, Director of Public Health, Powys Teaching Health Board  
September 2021***

**[pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine](https://pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine)**

**[pthb.nhs.wales/find/ttp](https://pthb.nhs.wales/find/ttp)**



## Information for you and your parent/guardian

The COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to all 12-15 year olds in Wales, to help protect your health and well-being.

The decision to have your COVID-19 vaccine is a choice for each individual to make.

If you have questions about the vaccine take time to look up trusted and accurate information - the NHS is always a good starting place - and chat about what you think, with your parent(s) or guardian.

You probably also have family or friends who have had their vaccine and who could chat with you about how they felt, or help answer any questions you may have.

You have to give a clear agreement (called 'consent') before any vaccination can be given - so you are in charge of what happens.

There is a lot of information out there about the COVID-19 vaccine, so please be careful to use only accurate and trusted information to help you answer any questions you may have.

Here are some trusted places for you to find out more about why you are being offered the vaccine, any side effects you might experience. They will also offer you more information about the vaccine or if you can't agree with your parent(s) or guardian on what to do:

**Public Health  
Wales**



**BBC**



**British Society for  
Immunology**



You may still benefit from having the vaccine even if you have previously had COVID-19. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 infection in the last 28 days, you need to wait a bit longer to have your vaccine. Your first dose needs to be at least 28 days away from when you tested positive.

Whether you have the vaccine or not, please keep wearing a face mask in indoor public spaces, staying home and getting tested if you have coronavirus symptoms, and keep washing your hands regularly.