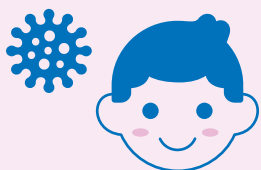# COVID-19 vaccination for children and young people aged 12 to 15 years

What is COVID-19 or coronavirus?

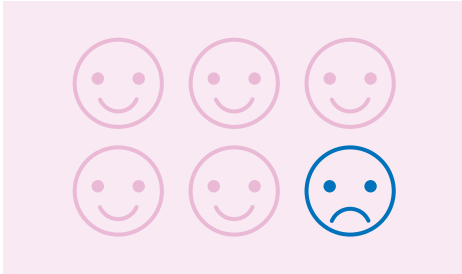COVID-19 is an illness sometimes called coronavirus.

Most children who get COVID-19 have no symptoms. Those that do, have mild symptoms like a bad cold.

A few children and young people will get very poorly and have to go to hospital.
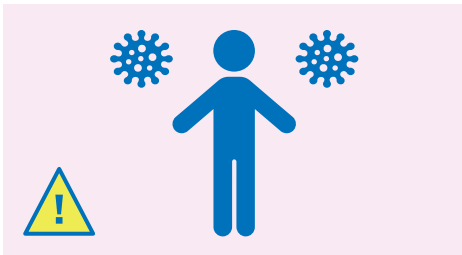
Who should have the COVID-19 vaccines?

The vaccine is most important for the small number of children and young people who are likely to get poorly with COVID-19.

They include children and young people who:
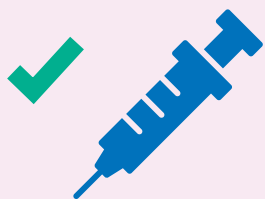
Have severe neurodisabilities.

Are immunosuppressed – those whose immune systems don't work as well. Also those who live with someone who is immunosuppressed.
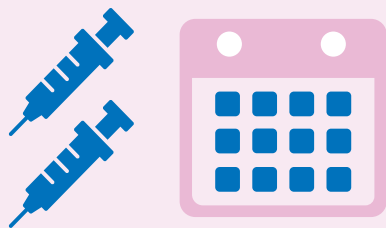
Have profound and multiple or severe learning disabilities.

Are on the learning disability register.

Live with Down's syndrome.

Who should have the COVID-19 vaccines?
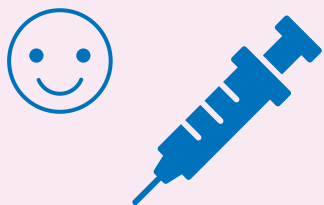
All these children and young people who are aged 12 to 15 years of age, <u>should</u> have the COVID-19 vaccinations.

About the vaccine

You will need 2 injections of the vaccine usually 8 weeks apart.

The vaccine has been tested to make sure it is as safe as possible.
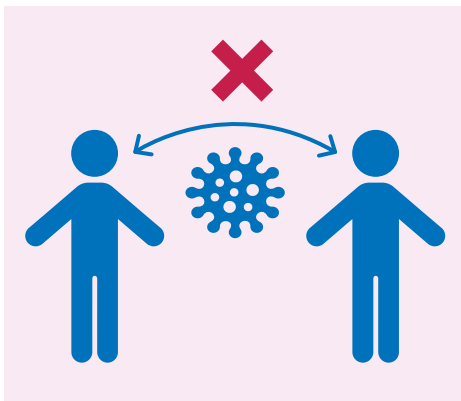
How do you know if you should get a vaccine?

Your GP (family doctor) should be able to check if you should get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Some people may receive a letter, or a phone call to invite them for their vaccination.

Can you give COVID-19 to anyone after you have had the vaccine?

Having the vaccine makes you less likely to get very ill from COVID-19.
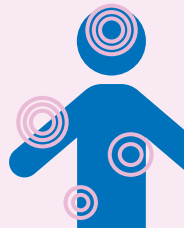
It will help to stop you from catching and passing on the virus.

Common side effects

Your arm feeling heavy or sore where you had the injection

Feeling achy or like you've got the flu

Feeling tired

ZZZ

Having a headache

If you feel feverish (like you're very hot or very cold) you should:
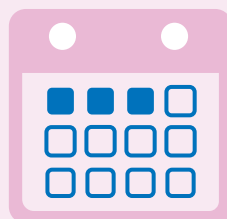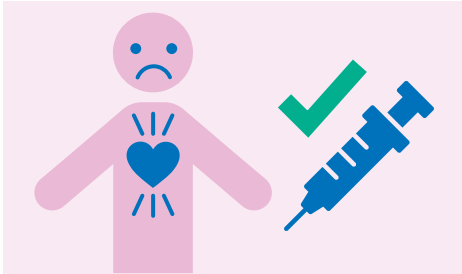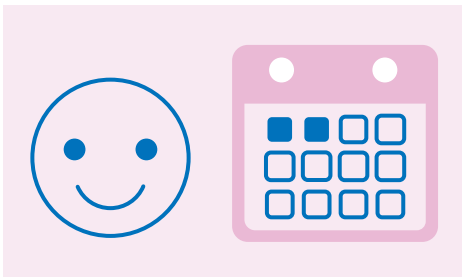
Rest

Take paracetamol

You should feel better in less than a week

Rare but serious side effects

Worldwide, there have been recent, rare cases of inflammation of the heart reported after COVID-19 vaccines.

These cases have been seen within a few days of vaccination.

Most people felt better after a few days of simple treatment

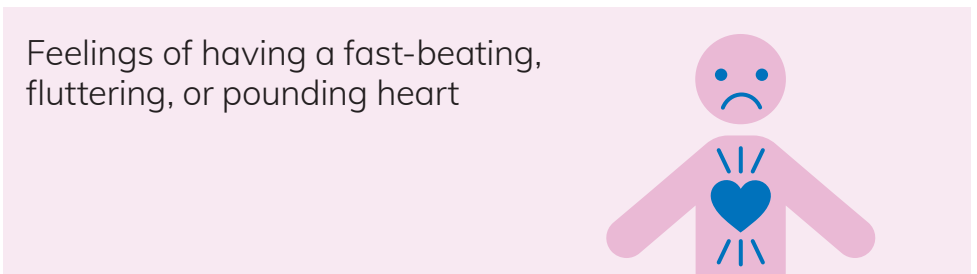You should seek medical advice urgently from your GP or Emergency Department if you experience:

Chest pain

Shortness of breath

Feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding heart

Rare but serious side effects

If you feel very poorly after vaccination, call 111.

Make sure you tell them about the vaccine. You may need your vaccine record card.

If you think you have a serious side effect from the vaccine you can report them using the yellow card scheme.

The Coronavirus Yellow Card system is a website where you can report any side effects from the vaccine.

You may need support to access this website: coronavirus-yellowcard. mhra.gov.uk

Your appointment

When you receive an invitation letter from your GP/Trust, it will give details of your appointment.

You will be told where to go for your vaccine and when.

What to do next

Don't forget your COVID-19 vaccination

Make sure you keep this record card with you

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccination or what to do after your vaccination, see www.nidirect.gov.uk/covid-vaccine

DoH www.health-ni.gov.uk

COVID-19 immunisation Protect yourself.

HSC Health and Social Care

When you've had the first injection, you should get a record card. This card should have your next appointment in around 8 weeks.

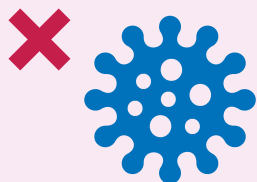Although the first dose will give you good protection, you need the second dose to get longer-lasting protection.

Keep your card safe and make sure you go to get your second injection.
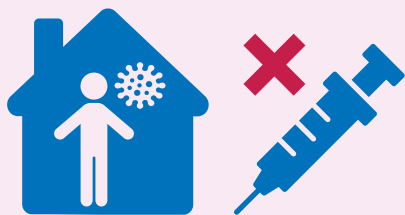
How long does the vaccine take to work?

It can take a few weeks for the vaccine to protect you.

Does the vaccine work for everyone?

The vaccine doesn't completely stop everyone getting COVID-19, but if you do, it should still stop you being very poorly.

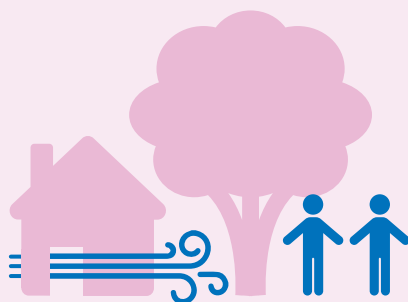## What to do if you are not well when it is your next appointment

You should not attend a vaccine appointment if you are self-isolating, waiting for a COVID-19 test, within 4 weeks of a positive COVID test, or unsure if you are fit and well.

After the vaccine, you should still:

Wear a face covering in crowded indoor spaces

Meet outdoors or if indoors, let fresh air in
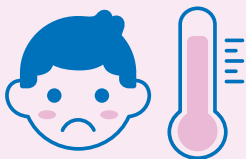
Wash your hands carefully and often

Follow the current guidance on nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus

Signs of COVID-19

A new cough and you keep on coughing.

A high temperature.

Your smell or taste going away or changing.

If you have the symptoms above, stay at home and arrange to have a test.

Further information on symptoms is available on nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus

If you cannot use the website, phone 111 free of charge.

HSC Health and Social Care

Call 111

08/21