

KDS/JSS

12 October 2021



Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to give you an update on student immunisations for Covid and flu. As you are aware, the immunisation team came into school on Wednesday 6 October and vaccinated all the students who were in school and who had been given consent by their parents, against Covid. Unfortunately, we did have a lot of students off sick or isolating at the time who would ordinarily have received the vaccine. We were given information by the South West Immunisation Team that they would be coming back into school to do catch-up sessions in the near future. However, we received information yesterday to the contrary, that they will not be coming back into school to vaccinate the students who missed out.

We are very disappointed at this news and very sorry to have to give parents this information, after we were reassured they would be returning. We know how important it is to some parents that their child is vaccinated. All we can do is give you the information we have received. The South West Immunisation Team have asked that no one calls them with queries, but there is a dedicated child covid questions team who will be able to answer any queries and you can email them on childrenscovidquestions@southernhealth.nhs.uk

With regards to the flu immunisation, which is delivered to children via a nasal spray, the team will be coming in on 8th December 2021 to give this. You need to give online consent for this and the information has been sent out several times now via Schoolcomms. If you need the information again, please contact justine.sayers@crestwood.hants.sch.uk and she can email you the letter which has the consent form link. You need to do this as soon as possible as your child cannot receive the immunisation if you do not give your consent prior to the team coming into school.

I attach a letter received yesterday from the Department of Education and the Department for Health and Social Care, which we were asked to send out to parents. This gives information on testing and vaccination.

Once again, we apologise that you were given misleading information, but this is beyond our control and we hope that 12-15 year olds will soon be able to receive their vaccinations via their GPs. If we receive any information, we will of course keep you informed.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Krista Dawkins
Headteacher

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Department
for Education



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State for Education*

*Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street
Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT*

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0EU*

A joint letter to parents of secondary school and college students in England on Covid-19 testing and vaccines from the Secretaries of State for Education and for Health and Social Care

11th October 2021

COVID-19 AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ENGLAND

We know that children and young people have been hugely affected by the pandemic, both in terms of their education and their ability to socialise and participate in activities that benefit them outside of formal education.

We want to thank you as parents and guardians of secondary school and college students for your support over the last eighteen months. We know this time has been difficult for many of you, as well as for the young people you care for.

As students return to the classroom, we would ask for your continued support to make sure your children are able to stay in face-to-face learning, by encouraging them to:

- test themselves for COVID-19 twice a week, and more frequently if they are specifically asked to do so. This way, we can find individuals who have the virus but are not showing symptoms, and stop them from passing it on to others.
- come forward for the COVID-19 vaccine. This is one of the best things young people can do to protect themselves and those around them.

We know that students have missed a lot of time in school and college since the pandemic started, and that there is no substitute for face-to-face learning. Keeping students in the classroom in the coming months is therefore a Government priority, both for their immediate and longer-term wellbeing.

We know that some of you will be concerned about the health risks to the young people you care for. We want to reassure you that the evidence shows that young people remain at very low risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

However, we need to continue to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Young people who get ill will need to miss school or college, and may spread it to others. That is why we are encouraging you all to support your children to get vaccinated and to continue to test regularly. This will help to detect cases early, reduce spread, and keep students in education.

Vaccination

Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme for children aged 12-15 years has now started. Thousands of young people across the country have already taken the opportunity to receive their vaccine. If your child is 12-15 years old, a consent form and information leaflet from the [NHS](#) will be sent home allowing you to provide consent for your child to receive their vaccination at school.

We remind you that 16- and 17-year-olds can book their vaccination through the [National Booking Service](#) or find a convenient [walk-in](#) site. Please do help your 16- and 17-year-olds to book a vaccination if they have not already done so. We would also encourage you to book a vaccination for yourself if you have not done so already, or if you have missed a second dose.

Testing

We ask that you support and encourage your children to test twice a week at home, every week, with Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. This will help us reduce the transmission of COVID-19 among our children. Please report and upload test results [online](#), even if they are negative or void, as this allows us to understand the virus and take additional action when needed.

In addition to regular twice weekly testing:

- Children displaying the symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and [get a PCR test](#).
- Children who receive a positive LFD result should isolate and book a PCR test to confirm their result.
- Children who are identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace should take a PCR test and continue to go to school while they wait for their result.
- In response to potential outbreaks, your school, college or local health team may advise additional testing. For example, if your child is identified as a close contact, they may be asked to take daily LFDs, while they wait for their PCR result. In this scenario, they should continue to attend school as long as their LFD results remain negative.

Additionally, please encourage your child to [follow guidance on wearing face coverings](#) in crowded spaces with people they don't know well, for example on school transport.

We know that many of you will have questions or concerns about this, and we understand that. The NHS website (www.nhs.uk) is an excellent source of advice, which we hope will be able to answer many of your questions about testing or vaccination. If not, you can call the 119 service who should be able to help with questions on testing. When you get a vaccination consent form for your child, it will include details of how you can ask further questions of your local teams.

Thank you again for your support.



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