Hackney

Hackney Education
1 Reading Lane
Hackney
London
E8 1GQ

To: All parents and carers with children
at Hackney secondary maintained
schools, free schools and academies

28 February 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Covid-19 vaccination for young people aged over 12 years old

Thank you for your support to help all our schools and settings run as safely and
effectively as possible since the start of this term in January when Covid-19 infections in
Hackney were at their highest.

Although infection rates in the borough are beginning to fall, Covid-19 cases remain quite
high amongst 10 to 19 year olds. Vaccination is an important way to increase protection
against Covid-19 and reduce the spread of the virus, especially now all restrictions have
been lifted. However, vaccination levels in Hackney for young people aged 12 to 18 are
currently amongst the lowest in London. We are, therefore, asking for your support to help
protect your children & others from catching & spreading the Covid-19 virus.

Who can get vaccinated?
Young people aged 12 to 18 years old are eligible for 2 doses of the vaccine, while those
aged 16+ and adults over 18 are also eligible for the booster vaccination.

Whilst there are plans to introduce vaccination of 5-11 year olds, this has not been
implemented in Hackney yet.

Where can my child get vaccinated?
This term, many of Hackney's secondary and special schools will be hosting on site
vaccination clinics. Some schools will also be extending these clinics to the end of the
school day, so that you can accompany your child whilst they get vaccinated (and also get
vaccinated yourself, if you have not yet received your first, second or booster shot). Your
child's school will be in touch with more information about this.

Alternatively, you can book a vaccination appointment quickly at a local vaccination centre
or participating pharmacy through the national NHS booking system or by calling 119.

There are also some local walk-in centres where you may not need to book an
appointment. Use the NHS Grab a Jab finder to find out where these are.

Why is it important for my child to get vaccinated?
The impact of the Covid-19 virus on the welfare, mental and physical health of young people, through isolation from education and community, is considerable. Being vaccinated will reduce transmission of the Covid-19 virus and protect your child from serious illness and long Covid, as well as protecting the most vulnerable. Vaccination also minimises the need for children and young people to have time off from school or college (especially if they are getting ready for the summer examination period). It also helps them to continue to carry out their hobbies, attend social events, travel abroad during the holiday period and live their lives to the full.

Does my child need my consent to get vaccinated?
If your child is aged 12-15, they will not be vaccinated without your consent. If you are accompanying them, this can be done at the time. If your child is being vaccinated at an onsite school clinic, you will need to provide your consent in advance. Your child's school can give you more information about how to do this.

If your child is over 16, they can consent to the vaccination themself.

How will I know if the vaccine is safe for my child?
Millions of children around the world have safely had a Covid-19 vaccine. Hackney Public Health team's advice is that vaccines are safe, they keep our community safe and they are our best hope for life resuming normality. As such, we are strongly recommending that all eligible young people aged over 12 should be vaccinated, as the benefits of Covid-19 vaccination outweigh any negative side effects.

Where can I find more information?
As well as [Hackney Council's website](), listed below are some reliable sources of information on vaccination. If you have questions about the process, you can contact your child's school for advice, or if you have a specific question about the vaccine you can arrange a call back from a dedicated clinician by calling 07706-735915.

- NHS flyers - [Covid-19 vaccination - a guide for children & young people](), [Vaccination programme for children and young people - guidance for parents]() and [What to expect after your COVID-19 vaccination - advice for children and young people]() [Translations can be downloaded [HERE]()]
- North East London Health & Care Partnership - [information for parents about vaccines for 12-15 year olds]() (including [Frequently Asked Questions]())
- Videos to watch with your child - [NHS Covid-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15]() and [NHS Covid-19 myth busting video]()
- A [short presentation]() from Hackney Council Communications team for parents and carers regarding Covid-19 vaccination for your child.

We hope you find this information useful in helping you and your child understand how to get vaccinated and how important vaccination is.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Gammon
Director of Education

Dr Sandra Husbands
Director of Public Health