



A letter to all parents or carers of 12 to 15 year old students at Sydenham School

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID-19 vaccination – Update and information session

Following the announcement that the COVID-19 vaccination is being made available to all 12-15 year olds, we would like to invite you to an online information session at **5pm on Tuesday 28 September**. To join the meeting, please click the link below:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Learn more](#) | [Meeting options](#)

During the session, Lewisham healthcare professionals will share information and answer your questions about the COVID-19 vaccination and the consent process.

We will then be hosting an NHS team to deliver COVID-19 vaccination to consenting 12 to 15 year olds on **Wednesday 6 October**.

Vaccinating children and young people 12 years and over to reduce the risk of school absence

As you may have read, everyone aged 12 and over is being offered a COVID-19 vaccination. This follows the Chief Medical Officer's guidance that the risks of vaccination are outweighed by the benefits of reducing potential damage from further school absence and loss of education.

A recent survey suggested one in two children aged 10-15 years feel they have fallen behind in education, with two in three feeling under pressure to catch up. We know many of our children and young people in Lewisham have been impacted by school closures and isolating at home. Vaccination is the most effective way to protect against COVID-19 and so getting your child vaccinated is the best way to keep them safe and not miss school.

Vaccination of children and young people at Sydenham School

The NHS will run a day-long vaccination clinic at Sydenham School to tie in with school hours on Wednesday 6 October. Your consent will be sought in the same way as for other vaccines normally delivered at school.

It's really important that you have a conversation with your child about consent for the vaccine. The nurse will discuss the COVID-19 vaccine with your child at their appointment and will be able to answer any questions they may have.

Students aged 16 or 17 will also be able to receive their vaccination on 6 October if they request it, but they will not need parental consent.

Finding out more

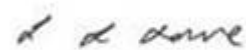
We understand that you may have concerns or questions about the COVID-19 vaccination, either for your child or for yourself. There are a number of ways to find out more:

- *Online information session* – As explained above, a Lewisham healthcare professional is hosting an online information session for parents, carers, students and staff on Tuesday, 28 September at 5pm. You can join the session at this link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- *South-East London Vaccine Facts* – The NHS in South East London has established a website with information at [nhsselondonvaccinefacts.com](https://nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/south-east-london-vaccine-facts).
- *Lewisham vaccination helpline* - You can also book a free, impartial and confidential conversation with a Lewisham healthcare professional in one of over 200 languages. [Book online](#) or by calling 07828 499044.

With kind regards,



Dr Catherine Mbema
Director of Public Health
Lewisham Council



Mrs Gloria Lowe
Headteacher
Sydenham School

