



UK Health
Security
Agency



London schools and the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine for 12 to 15 year olds

Webinar Participant Pack

Purpose

This webinar, hosted by OHID¹ (DHSC) and UKHSA² in collaboration with NHSEI and London Councils, is designed to provide key updates on the roll out of the vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds in London schools. The session is aimed at Headteachers, Directors of Children services, Public Health Teams and vaccination leads to support them with the roll out of the vaccines in their local areas and to allow sharing of good practice and discussion of key issues.

The webinar will take the form of a Q&A session, with a panel of speakers from across schools, public health, London NHS services, and the children and young people's agenda in London, and will provide the opportunity to discuss a range of topics across the delivery of vaccines for this age group, including:

- Operational delivery of the vaccine programme for children and young people aged 12-15.
- Examples of best practice for the delivery of vaccines in education settings.
- Communicating information around the vaccination programme with key stakeholders including parents/carers, and children and young people.

Panel Members and Speakers

Dr. Marilena Korkodilos (Chair) – Deputy Director for Health Improvement and Workforce Development, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) London Region

Dr. Marilena Korkodilos is Deputy Director for Health Improvement and Workforce Development in the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) London Region. Following a clinical career in Paediatrics, Marilena trained in public health. In

¹ The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities is part of DHSC and came into existence on 1st October 2021 following a national reform of the Public Health system in England

² The United Kingdom Health Security Agency has been in existence since April 21 and is responsible for the Health Protection functions that previously sat under PHE. UKHSA is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

her current role she leads work to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities for children and young people in London and nationally. She is currently providing public health expertise to the management of COVID-19 in children and young people, including to the Department for Education.

Dr. Jonathan Cohen – Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Evelina Children’s Hospital

Dr. Jonathan Cohen joined Evelina London in 2021. He specialises in infection and immunity in children and has extensive experience of the impact of COVID-19 on children and adolescents. Alongside his clinical practice, he is leading a research project to understand why exceptionally rarely children develop complications from this infection or even more rarely from the vaccine.

Will Huxter – Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning Programme Director & Director of London COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, NHS England & NHS Improvement London Region

Will Huxter is currently the Programme Director for NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHS E/I) London COVID Vaccination Programme. Will is also the NHS E/I London Director for Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning. Prior to joining NHS England in June 2014, Will worked in a range of commissioning roles within the NHS, and for five years at an NHS Trust. He has also spent eight years working in the voluntary sector.

Councillor Danny Thorpe – Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich & Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services; Executive Member for Health and Care on London Councils

Councillor Danny Thorpe became Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich in May 2018 and is the Cabinet Member for Community & Corporate Services. Cllr Thorpe is also the Executive Member for Health and Care on London Councils.

Aruna Sharma – Headteacher, Villiers High School

Ms Aruna Sharma has been the Head Teacher at the Villiers High School, Southall, since September 2017. The school was one of the first in London to start vaccinating 12 to 15 year olds and has reported a successful uptake.

Pippa Nightingale MBE – Chief Nurse & Senior Responsible Officer for the COVID-19 Response and Vaccination Programme, North West London Integrated Care System (ICS)

Pippa Nightingale MBE is the Chief Nurse and the senior responsible officer for the COVID response and vaccination programme for North West London’s Integrated Care System. She has undertaken numerous professional leadership roles including deputy director of midwifery at Imperial Hospital, director of midwifery and Chief Nurse at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

Debbie Green – Head of Immunisations, Antenatal Newborn Screening & Child Health Information Systems, NHS England & NHS Improvement London Region

Debbie Green has over 20 years' experience as a nurse, midwife and community specialist public health nurse (HV). In 2013 she was appointed Head of Antenatal Newborn (ANNB) Screening Programme London Region Health Commissioning team in NHS England having worked as a PH commissioner in NW London CCGs. Debbie moved to the position of Head of Immunisation Programmes, Child Health Information Services (CHIS) and ANNB Screening in 2017.

Cherstyn Hurley – Immunisation Publications Manager, Immunisation and Countermeasures Department, UK Health Security Agency

Cherstyn Hurley is the immunisation publications manager for the Immunisation and countermeasures department of UKHSA (formerly Public Health England). She is a WHO trained Infodemic Manager and works to co-produce Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) resources to support national immunisation programmes and leads on COVID-19 vaccination programme resources for the public and health professionals.

Gail Tolley – Strategic Director for Children & Young People, Brent London Borough Council; Leader of Association of London Directors of Children's Services on Education and Schools

Gail Tolley leads for the Association of London Directors of Children's Services on education and schools. She also chairs the national Association of Directors of Children's Services Educational Achievement Committee. She has been a member of the Schools' Minister's Stakeholder Group throughout the pandemic.

Kirsten Watters – Director of Public Health, Camden London Borough Council

Kirsten Watters is currently Director of Public Health at Camden Council. She was formerly Deputy Director and Consultant at Southwark Council, where she led on children's public health, sexual and reproductive health and health protection. She has a specialist interest in children and young people's public health and between 2017-2020 chaired the London Children's and Young People Network.

Agenda

Item	Section	Detail	Lead	Time
1.	Introduction 14:00 – 14:10	Welcome and context <i>An overview of key policy updates, expectations and timeframes for vaccine delivery, and insights into the safety of immunisation for this age group.</i>	Dr. Marilena Korkodilos Dr. Jonathan Cohen Will Huxter Cllr. Danny Thorpe	10 mins
2.	Best practice session – Villiers High School 14:10 – 14:20	Operational delivery <i>Showcasing the effective delivery of a school COVID-19 vaccination programme, at Villiers High School in Southall.</i>	Aruna Sharma Pippa Nightingale MBE	10 mins
3.	Question and answer session with panellists 14:20 – 14:55	<i>An opportunity to put to panellists on the COVID-19 vaccination programme.</i> <i>Questions can be submitted by raising hands in Microsoft Teams, through the chat function, or by emailing the London Operations mailbox (london.ops@phe.gov.uk).</i>	Chair: Dr. Marilena Korkodilos Panellists: Dr. Jonathan Cohen Debbie Green Cherstyn Hurley Pippa Nightingale MBE Aruna Sharma Gail Tolley Kirsten Watters	35 mins
4.	Final remarks and close 14:55 – 15:00	Highlights from the session, thanks and reflections.	Dr. Marilena Korkodilos Julie Billett	5 mins

Background^{3,4}

Introduction to the vaccination programme for healthy 12-15 year olds:

Following a decision by the UK's four Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), all healthy 12 to 15 year olds are now being offered a first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The vaccines are being administered predominantly in schools by School Aged Immunisation Services. Following completion of the school-based programme, further clinics will be delivered in Primary Care and other settings for those who do not receive a vaccine in school.

³ UK Health Security Agency. *COVID-19 vaccination programme for children and young people: guidance for schools*. Available at: [COVID-19 vaccination programme for children and young people: guidance for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-children-and-young-people-guidance-for-schools)

⁴ UK Health Security Agency. *COVID-19 vaccination programme for young people: guidance for parents*. Available at: [COVID-19 vaccination programme for young people: guidance for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents)

A vaccine programme has been in place for healthy 16-17 year olds to receive a single dose of Pfizer-BioNTech since 4th August 2021. The offer of two doses to children and young people aged 12 to 15 who are at increased risk from infection or living with someone who is immunosuppressed has been in place since 19th July 2021. Over 100,000 Londoners aged under 18 have received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine already.

Why the decision has been taken:

The UK's four Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) agree that while COVID-19 is typically mild or asymptomatic in young people, it can be unpleasant for some and one dose of the vaccine will provide good protection against severe illness and hospitalisation. Vaccinating 12 to 15 year olds will also help to reduce COVID related school absence along with the spread of COVID-19 within schools.

The COVID-19 secondary schools vaccine programme should therefore provide protection to young people and reduce the disruption to face to face education. Keeping young people in school will also contribute to the emotional and mental wellbeing of school aged children.

Consent for the vaccine:

The vaccine is not mandatory. Parents will be asked to give their consent for the vaccine. Children and young people may express a wish to have the vaccine and may have the capacity to provide informed consent themselves.

All parents and guardians are asked for consent and will usually make this decision jointly with their children. The information leaflet is addressed to the child (as the recipient of the vaccine) and encourages them to discuss the decision about the vaccine with their parent(s) or guardian(s).

Some young people will be mature enough to provide their own consent. Healthcare professionals from the school's immunisation team will speak to the young person and make every effort to contact the parent to acquire verbal consent. These professionals have expertise in vaccinating young people and will be responsible for assessing whether they have enough understanding to self-consent ('Gillick competence').

The [Green Book of Immunisation](#) contains more information on consent, including Gillick competence.