

**Adult Care, Public Health
& Wellbeing**

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Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 vaccination programme for 5- to 11-year-olds

COVID-19 infection rates in Redbridge and across London are currently high and rising, particularly in the younger age groups. Whilst most children may not suffer serious symptoms, the risk of hospitalisation remains, and we are still learning more about the potential for long term health impacts following infection. There is also significant concern over the risk of transmission to others, especially with fewer restrictions in place.

The UK's Chief Medical Officers have recommended that all children aged 5 to 11 years should be offered vaccination against COVID-19 and are now eligible for their first dose.

Young people will be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which is the vaccine approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for children and young people between 5-11 years of age. This follows a thorough review of the safety, quality, and effectiveness of the vaccine for this age group.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme is intended to provide protection to children and young people against COVID-19, reducing its transmission within schools and in the wider population.

It will also help to reduce the need for children to have time off school and reduce disruption to face to face education.

You can book an appointment for your child at a local vaccination site via the [NHS website](#). **Children and young people aged 5 to 11 years will only be offered their vaccination with parental consent.**

To find out more about the COVID-19 vaccines and the NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme please visit www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination

Yours faithfully



Gladys Xavier
Director of Public Health and Commissioning

