

COVID-19 Vaccinations for 16-17 Year Olds

Information for young people



Are you 16 or 17 Years old?

If you are 16 or 17 years old, you are now eligible for your COVID-19 vaccination.

What is COVID -19?

COVID- 19 is a respiratory infection caused by a new coronavirus known as SARS-Cov-2. It is highly infectious and spreads through the air when people cough or sneeze or when people touch contaminated surfaces and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth.

Who can catch it?

Young people can catch the virus just as easily as adults but adults who are elderly or already feeling poorly are the most affected.

Why do I need to be vaccinated?

The virus can spread very easily and you can carry it and pass it onto others even if you don't feel poorly yourself. To stop the virus spreading, you are being offered the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine can help protect the body from being infected.

The vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19. Public Health Scotland strongly recommends you get the vaccine as soon as it is offered to you.



How do I get my vaccine?

Drop-in clinics are available in all mass vaccination centres as well as community locations for people over the age of 16. More clinics are being added all the time, so check out the link below to find a clinic close to you.

<https://www.nhslothian.scot/Coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Drop-in-Clinics.aspx>

You don't need an appointment or to be registered with a GP, just visit any clinic that offers the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. This is the currently the only vaccine that can be given to anyone under 18 years old.

You can get your first or second dose (as long you had your first dose at least 8 weeks before). You can bring someone along with you if you are feeling anxious, or talk to the vaccination staff who will be happy to answer your questions.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is being offered to 12-15 year olds if they fall into the following higher-risk categories:

- If you are aged 12 to 15 and you have an illness or disability which increases your risk of serious COVID-19 disease (such as: severe neuro-disabilities, Down's syndrome, immunosuppression and multiple or severe learning disabilities)
- If you are aged 12 to 17 and you live with an immunosuppressed person, you are being offered the vaccine in order to protect that person.

If you have any questions about having the vaccine or would like more information then please visit:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine>

