

# Health Secretary statement on COVID-19 vaccines for five- to 11-year-olds

Government response

A statement from the Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid on the vaccination of five- to 11-year-olds following updated advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation



Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said:

I have accepted the advice from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to make a non-urgent offer of COVID-19 vaccines to all children aged five to 11 in England.

The NHS is already offering vaccines to at-risk children and those who live with immunosuppressed people in this age group.

The JCVI advice follows a thorough review by our independent medicines regulator, the MHRA, which approved Pfizer's paediatric vaccine as safe and effective for children aged five to 11.

Children without underlying health conditions are at low risk of serious illness from COVID-19 and the priority remains for the NHS to offer vaccines and boosters to adults and vulnerable young people, as well as to catch-up with other childhood immunisation programmes.

The NHS will prepare to extend this non-urgent offer to all children during April so parents can, if they want, take up the offer to increase protection against potential future waves of COVID-19 as we learn to live with this virus.

Published 16 February 2022