

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear families,

**Re: COVID vaccination of students at Burton Borough School on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Last night we were contacted by the NHS to say that the vaccination process for students aged 12-15 years old will commence on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September in school. In the paragraphs below I have highlighted some of the key information around this process. At this point, can I please stress that **this is a process that is being conducted solely by external professional NHS staff**. The SAIS (School Age Immunisation Service) will be legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccine. Legal accountability for offering Covid-19 vaccines to children and young people sits with the SAIS and not with the school.

Schools are merely providing the venue and collecting consent forms. Therefore, if you do have any questions can you direct them to the NHS and the School Age Immunisation Service, and not the school.

At present we have 974 students who would be eligible for the vaccination, and these will be completed within 2 days. This is a large-scale operation so please be mindful that there will be disruption to the school day, and we will as always be expecting our students to conduct themselves in the good manner that we are accustomed to.

**What should I be receiving with this letter?**

Alongside this correspondence, you will later today receive a letter via email which we are forwarding from the NHS entitled 'Schools COVID-19 vaccination letter and FAQ for consent'. You will also have the consent form itself. This letter goes into detail about all aspects of the procedure and provides links for further reading should you want more information. **I urge you all to read this with your child**. Students will also be receiving a hard copy during period 6 for them to take home.

**When does the consent form need to be in?**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September by 9am**. The NHS have made it very clear that they need this time to process consent and plan for the numbers who will be receiving the vaccine on each day.

**Who will be conducting the vaccination?**

A team of 24 medical professionals and NHS admin staff will be on site for 48 hours. They will organise the event and conduct the vaccinations.

**My child is in year 7. Will they get a vaccination?**

If your child has turned 12 by either the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> September, then yes, they will be eligible. If they are 11 years old, then they will not be able to receive a vaccination. The SAIS will be providing the school with details of when catch-up vaccinations will be available but as yet we do not have this information.



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### **My child is 16 in year 11 but hasn't yet had the vaccination. Will they be eligible?**

Yes, they can get the vaccination as part of this series. You just need to complete the consent form.

### **What about consent? Is this from a parent, or child?**

In this series of vaccinations, the NHS will only vaccinate if there is consent from parents. If the child is 16 then this can come from the child.

### **What about after care following the vaccination?**

Each child will be given a leaflet following their vaccination which will provide all the information they need around after care. The NHS are confident that side effects of the vaccination will be minimal and therefore, if your child is absent from school after the event, we have been advised that it will be coded as 'ill' on their attendance as advised by the NHS.

### **How will they know when it is their turn to be vaccinated and where do they go?**

There will be a team of BBS admin staff who will send for students when it is their turn. They will report to the canteen as they did for their lateral flow tests and a member of the NHS group will meet them there.

### **What do I wear?**

The only stipulation is that students wear a short-sleeved shirt on the day. The vast majority of our students wear short sleeved shirts anyway but if long sleeved shirts are worn, they must bring in their PE top to change into. A changing area will be provided should this be the case. **All students will be expected to be in full school uniform as normal on these days.**

### **What if my child is absent on the day?**

For any children absent on the vaccination days (or for year 7s who turn 12 later), there will be catch-up arrangements in place that the SAIS provider team will share with school, however, as yet we do not know when these will be.

Yours sincerely



Ben Morgan  
Acting Principal



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