

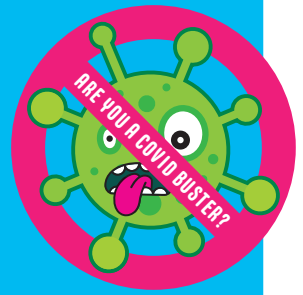


COVID-19 vaccination

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 11



Jersey's Vaccination Programme is offering COVID-19 vaccines to children aged 5 to 11 years.



The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have advised that parents and carers of all children aged 5 to 11 years should be offered the chance to have their child vaccinated.

Vaccination is particularly important for children who have health conditions that put them at high risk from COVID-19.



What is COVID-19 or coronavirus?

For most children, COVID-19 is a mild illness, however, for a few children, the symptoms may be more serious or last longer. This can lead to feeling severely unwell or hospitalisation.

The current Omicron variant appears to be particularly mild in children. It is not known if future variants will be as mild.

Which children are at high risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) infection?

Children with certain health conditions, or those with a weakened immune system are at higher risk of serious COVID-19 disease.

These children and those who live with someone who has a weakened immune system should already have been invited for vaccination.

For more information on the health conditions, you can talk to someone in the vaccination team, the Coronavirus Helpline, or to your GP.

Will the vaccine protect my child?

The COVID-19 vaccination will reduce the chance of your child suffering from COVID-19 disease. It may take a few weeks for their body to build up some protection from the vaccine.

Two doses of the vaccine should give your child long lasting protection against serious complications of infection – including any future waves due to new variants.

Like all medicines, no vaccine is completely effective – some children may still get COVID-19 despite having a vaccination, but this should be less severe.

About the vaccine

5 to 11 year olds will be offered a paediatric formulation of the Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) vaccine. Each vaccine is a third of the dose of vaccine that is given to older children and adults. Universal vaccination to 5 to 11 year olds will offer 2 doses of the vaccine at least 12 weeks apart. Children at greater risk of serious illness if they catch COVID-19 will be offered 2 doses of vaccine, at least 8 weeks apart.

The vaccine has been tested to make sure it is safe. You can read the Pfizer leaflet here:

www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/12634/pil#gref

Common side effects

Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short-term and not everyone gets them. The very common side effects should only last a day or two. The Pfizer vaccine tends to cause more side effects after the second dose.

Very common side effects include:

- having a painful, heavy feeling and tenderness in the arm where you had your injection. This tends to be worst around 1 to 2 days after the vaccination
- feeling tired
- headache
- general aches, or mild flu like symptoms

You can give them paracetamol (follow the children's dose advice in the packaging) to help make them feel better. You can find more information on paracetamol for children at www.nhs.uk/medicines/paracetamol-for-children.

Although feeling feverish is not uncommon for 2 to 3 days, a high temperature is unusual and may indicate that your child has COVID-19 or another infection.

Symptoms following vaccination normally last less than a week. If your child has a very high temperature, or if their symptoms get worse, you can call the Coronavirus Helpline on **0800 735 5566**.

Less common side effects

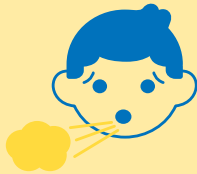
Very rare cases of inflammation of the heart (called myocarditis or pericarditis) have been reported very rarely after COVID-19 vaccines. Most cases were identified in young male adults who recovered and felt better following rest and simple treatments.

You should seek medical advice urgently if your child experiences:

chest pain



shortness of breath



feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding heart



if you are worried about your child's side effects, please call your GP for medical attention, or **999** if you are very worried.

Make sure you tell them about the vaccination your child has received, or show them your child's record card.

If you think they have had a serious side effect you can report it using the Coronavirus Yellow Card scheme. Please see page 7 for details.

When can I take my child to be vaccinated?

Parents will receive information offering them the chance to make an appointment for their child to be vaccinated. These appointments will be available from April over the Easter holidays and further slots will become available later.

How to book your appointment

The information you receive will explain how to make the appointment for your child.

You can book online at gov.je/vaccine or by calling the Coronavirus Helpline on **0800 735 5566**.

You will need to take your child to the vaccination centre at Fort Regent, and bring a completed consent form to your appointment.

What to do next

When your child has had their first vaccination, you should be given a record card.

You should keep this card and bring it with you when taking your child for their next

appointment. This will be in approximately 12 weeks time.

Although the first dose will give your child good protection, they will need the second dose to get longer-lasting protection.

Keep their card safe and make sure you take your child to get their second vaccination.

What to do if your child is not well when their appointment is due

You should not attend a vaccine appointment if you or your child are self-isolating or waiting for a COVID-19 test. If your child has tested positive for COVID-19, you should wait 12 weeks from the test before having the vaccine or at least 4 weeks if your child is at higher risk.

After the vaccine

You and your child should still try to avoid catching COVID-19 infections by following the current public health guidance.

Further information

The Yellow Card scheme is a website where you can report any side effects from the vaccine.

You can also call **0800 731 6789**.

You can report suspected side effects on the website using the QR code below or by downloading the Yellow Card app.

You can read the product information leaflet for more details on your vaccine, (see page 4) including possible side effects, on the Coronavirus Yellow Card website.



**coronavirus-yellowcard.
mhra.gov.uk**

Further information on coronavirus symptoms is available on:

gov.uk/coronavirus



