

Can my child (aged 6 months to 4 years) receive COVID-19 vaccinations?

Children aged between 6 months and 4 years, who have certain medical conditions which mean they are at increased risk from COVID-19, will be offered two vaccinations, at least 8 weeks apart. If your child is not at increased risk of getting seriously ill with COVID-19, they are not eligible for these vaccinations. Visit here for more info www.england.nhs.uk/covid-increased-risk

Why is it important that my child (aged 6 months to 4 years) is vaccinated?

While for most young children, COVID-19 is mild, the JCVI has advised that children with certain medical conditions are at increased risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19. They can become very unwell and may need to go to hospital if they get the infection. These children should therefore be offered vaccination to help protect them from COVID-19.

How can I arrange vaccination appointments for my child (aged 6 months to 4 years)?

It is not possible to book appointments for children aged 6 months to 4 years through the National Booking Service, and children in this age group cannot be vaccinated at a walk-in vaccination site. Local NHS services will invite and arrange vaccination appointments for eligible children aged between 6 months and 4 years old. If your child is eligible, please wait to be contacted. Note to person handling: vaccinations for this age group are expected to begin from 12 June 2023. Advise them as relevant that it may take some time for their local NHS service to contact them. If they have not been contacted by the end of July, and they think their child is eligible, they should discuss this with their child's hospital specialist or GP practice.

My child (aged 6 months to 4 years) has recently had COVID-19. Can they still receive their vaccinations?

If your child has COVID-19, or you think they might, please wait until they've recovered before getting them vaccinated. You should also wait if your child has a fever or seems particularly unwell with any illness. If they have recently recovered from an illness, there is no need to delay vaccination.

My child is at increased risk from COVID-19, but they have recently turned 5. Can they still get their vaccine?

If your child is at increased risk and turned 5 years old on or after 1 June 2023, they will be invited by local NHS services to receive the COVID-19 vaccine if they have not had any doses. If your child is at increased risk and turned 5 years old before 1 June 2023, or if they have already had a dose, in most cases, they will have to wait until the autumn to get their next dose. Advise the questioner that it may take some time for their local NHS service to contact them. If you have not been contacted by the end of July, and they think your child is eligible, contact your child's hospital specialist or GP practice.

Why is my child only being offered the vaccine now?

The NHS offers the COVID-19 vaccine in line with Government decisions which are taken following the advice of expert scientists on the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) first approved the COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 6 months to 4 years in December 2022, concluding it met their standards of safety, quality and effectiveness. Following its approval, JCVI advised a UK rollout to vulnerable children in clinical risk groups aged 6 months to 4 years. The committee considered data from the US rollout, where over one million doses of the vaccine have been given to children of the same age.