

**From the Chief Medical Officer
Prof Sir Michael McBride**



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

HSS(MD)47/2022

FOR ACTION

Chief Executives HSC Trusts (*for onward cascade to
Medical Directors*)

Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/SPPG

GP Medical Advisers, SPPG

All General Practitioners and GP Locums (*for onward
distribution to practice staff*)

Director of Pharmacy at SPPG (*for cascade to prescribing
advisers and community pharmacies*)

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Our Ref: HSS(MD)47/2022

Date: 29 September 2022

Dear Colleague

**UPDATE ON ADVICE FOR PRIMARY COVID-19 VACCINATION OF CHILDREN
TURNING 5 YEARS OF AGE**

1. Further to my letter of 25 February HSS(MD) 9/2022, <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-hss-md-09-2022.pdf>, the purpose of this letter is to confirm that the offer of COVID-19 vaccination does not apply to children turning 5 years of age from the **1 September 2022**. i.e. those children born on or from the **1 September 2017**.
2. In line with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) statement published in February 2022, this was a non-urgent offer to all children aged 5-11 years of age. The JCVI statement contained a footnote that stated the offer should include those children turning 5 years of age up to the end of August 2022.
3. Therefore, in line with the JCVI advice, the cut-off point for inclusion in this offer of vaccination was the 31 August 2022. The JCVI statement can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-update-on-advice-for-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-aged-5-to-11/jcvi-statement-on-vaccination-of-children-aged-5-to-11-years-old>.
4. The offer of vaccination for children currently aged 5-11 years of age (i.e. those 5 year olds born on or before the 31 August 2017), remains open and these children may still avail of COVID-19 vaccination, if they have not already done so. They should be offered the paediatric formulation of two 10 mcg doses of the Pfizer-

BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty®) as set out in HSS(MD)9/2022 and in the updated chapter of the Green Book - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1102459/Greenbook-chapter-14a-4September22.pdf

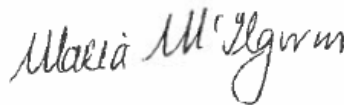
Children with an underlying health condition

5. Children with an underlying health condition or those who live with someone who has a weakened immune system will still become eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations, as they turn 5 years of age between now and the 31 March 2023.

Yours sincerely



Professor Sir Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



Ms Maria McIlgorm
Chief Nursing Officer



Mrs Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

