

August 2021

12-15 year old household contacts of people who are severely immunosuppressed are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination

We are writing to let you know that household contacts aged 12-15 of individuals who are severely immunosuppressed are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Our records indicate you are immunosuppressed (if incorrect please let us know), and we therefore want to ensure any of your household contacts aged 12-15 are offered a COVID-19 vaccination.

This is because the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has recently advised that household contacts of young people aged 16 years and over and adults with severe immunosuppression should be offered COVID-19 vaccination. This aims to reduce the risk of infection to you by vaccinating those most likely to transmit to you, as even though you may have received your COVID-19 vaccination, you may have lower protection from the vaccine given that you are immunosuppressed.

The revised JCVI advice applies to household contacts who are 12 to 15 years old with whom you **“expect to share living accommodation on most days.... and therefore, for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable.”** Household contacts aged 16 years and over are already eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination.

Please let any household contacts in 12-15 year old age group know they can now book a vaccination appointment by emailing ih.covidvaccine@nhs.net, or call 02081947570. Your household contacts will need to use this letter/text and present if asked.

Members of ‘bubbles’ that do not live with an immunosuppressed person for the majority of the week (frequent visitors and other non-carers who might visit the house often but not for the majority of the week, including overnight stays) are not included in the definition of ‘household contacts’ and should follow current advice on vaccination access, insofar as it relates to them.

For more information about the coronavirus vaccine, please visit www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination

Yours faithfully

South Southwark Vaccination Service