



**SHAPE and Brussels UK Medical Centre**

**COVID IMMUNISATION UPDATE**

**CHILDREN**

**UK program.** The UK's vaccination group advise ([here](#)) that those aged 12-17 may be offered **one** dose of the Pfizer BioNTech (Comirnaty) vaccine. The Department for Health is currently immunising in the UK while the MoD and FCDO plan for the logistics of an offer to the small number of overseas U18s who are not incorporated in a host nation plan. We are likely to have Pfizer available soon but have none yet. We are currently only be able to offer one immunisation, in line with NHS guidance. **Therefore, you are encouraged to consider the Belgian offer and accept it should you wish.**

**Belgian offer.** The Belgian authorities are offering **two** doses of the same Pfizer vaccine to 12-17 year olds and many of our young people have taken this up already. It will be an individual decision as to whether to take up the Belgian offer but if you experience any issues with access please contact our practice to help. One advantage of having the vaccination in the Belgian national system is that the record in the Belgian system is made automatically so digital EU certificates are possible.

**Recording of immunisation.** The UK practice will add the information to the NHS system when you send it through evidence. Please note though that neither the NHS online system nor the App is functional for U16s. This issue has also been raised in respect of demonstrating immunisation (and recovery) status for those living overseas. It is possible but laborious to add to the Belgian system for those who need it.

We understand that differing approaches to immunisation and certification between the UK and other nations is also challenging for those who travel between two regions (in particular children who are at school in the UK). This has been raised.

**MoD view on Host Nation offer:** JSP 950, Leaflet 7-1-1 (linked on ModNet [here](#)): So long as the HN-provided vaccine is compliant with the EMA/FDA/MHRA conditions of authorisation an individual (or the person with parental responsibility) can accept the offer of a HN vaccine under the principles of informed consent (noting that children aged 16-17 are often competent to give their own consent).

**More information:**

[COVID-19 vaccination: resources for children and young people](#)

[JCVI statement, August 2021: COVID-19 vaccination of children and young people aged 12 to 17 years](#)

## SHAPE and Brussels UK Medical Centre

### COVID IMMUNISATION UPDATE

#### BOOSTERS FOR OVER 50s AND RISK GROUPS

**UK Clinic Plan.** The UK clinic will offer a COVID booster jab in line with the NHS plan. This will include our patients who are over 50 and those who have certain underlying health conditions. The offer is of a mRNA vaccination (Moderna or Pfizer) more than 6 months after the second dose of the initial course, regardless of the type of vaccine originally received.

**We will contact you....BUT please email if you are over 50 and have not heard by 20 Nov.**

The UK plan to include a younger group than some other European countries, including Belgium, so a majority of our community will not be offered a booster by the host nation. We will also include some FCDO and OGD colleagues. The COVID booster and the flu immunisation can be administered at the same time.

**Which immunisation will I be offered?** The recommended booster is of an mRNA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer). We have some Moderna in stock and this is given at half the dose of the primary course. We are also working on the logistics of UK supply of Pfizer which has special storage conditions. The UK appears to be taking a comparable position to other nations regarding the type of vaccine and the dose offered so we hope that this will not be a problem for future certification.

**Certification.** The vaccination will be entered directly onto the NHS system. This NHS pass is accepted in Belgium. We also have a way of adding immunisations to the Belgian system where needed (noting that the host nation are not undertaking boosters for most people). Gaining an online eHealth logon to unlock the certificate view of this is described by the NSE information and involves having a national number (or BIS) plus acquiring a digital key from a registration authority. Please also let the practice know details of an immunisation if you do accept one elsewhere.

**More information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme>

#### THIRD PRIMARY DOSES

A small number of people require a third primary dose of vaccine due to having a condition or taking medicines that may affect the immune response. This is different to the booster but the third dose is also with the mRNA vaccine types. We have already reached out to those who may need it but if you are concerned that you are in these groups and have not yet been contacted please get in touch.

**More information:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/third-primary-covid-19-vaccine-dose-for-people-who-are-immunosuppressed-jcvi-advice>

#### CONTACT US

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