Children aged 12-15 who are at increased risk of serious illness from infection with SARS-CoV-2 will be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the UK’s Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has announced.

This will include children with severe neurodisabilities and those with underlying conditions that result in immunosuppression. The committee has also recommended that children aged 12-17 who live with an immunosuppressed person will also be offered the vaccine. This adds to the existing recommendation that at-risk young people aged 16-17 should be offered the vaccine.

The vaccine is not being recommended to children outside these groups, as the committee concluded that the “health benefits in this population are small, and the benefits to the wider population are highly uncertain.”

The Pfizer vaccine is the only covid-19 vaccine authorised for children (aged 12 and over) in the UK. Extremely rare reports of myocarditis and pericarditis have arisen after the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were given to millions of younger adults.[**1**](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1841#ref-1)