It can be caused by the common cold, hepatitis B and C, and herpes simplex virus.

The most common symptoms of the condition include chest pain, a fever, a fast heartbeat, tiredness and shortness of breath.

If the inflammation damages the heart muscle or the fibres that conduct electrical pulses to the heart, complications can develop.

They can develop quickly, and include sudden loss of consciousness, an abnormally fast, slow or irregular heartbeat.

In very severe cases the condition is fatal, causing heart failure or sudden death. The inflammation enlarges the heart and creates scar tissue, forcing it to work harder and therefore making it weaker.

In most cases of viral myocarditis, the illness goes away and there are no complications.

But in rare cases when inflammation is severe, there can be damage to the heart which needs monitoring and possibly a heart transplant.

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to 15 per cent, according to Myocarditis Foundation.

It is difficult to gauge the prevalence of myocarditis because there is no widely available test for it.

In 2010, approximately 400,000 people died of heart muscle disease - cardiomyopathy that includes myocarditis - worldwide.

Expert consensus opinion estimates that up to 40 per cent of dilated cardiomyopathy results from myocarditis, according to the National Organisation for Rare Disorders.

Almost 45million doses of the British-made jab, which works in a different way to the mRNA jabs, have been administered.

The MHRA says the conditions are 'occurring more frequently in young males and shortly after the second dose'.

It says: 'There has been a recent increase in reporting of these events in particular with the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines,

Video: Three-month-old becomes one of first patients in England to receive potentially life-saving drug on NHS (Evening Standard)

These reports are extremely rare, and are typically mild with individuals usually recovering within a short time with standard treatment and rest.

'People should come forward for their first and second vaccination when invited to do so, unless advised otherwise.'

Product information leaflets published by the Government now both say myocarditis and pericarditis are possible side effects.

But experts say there is an urgent need for more detailed data on the risks, especially given fears it more common after second doses. Around 8million Britons are waiting for top-ups of Pfizer or M

The MHRA only says that there are around six cases for every 100,000 people in the general population every year.

There is not enough data to estimate exactly how common the complications are in vaccinated people yet. But the change in stance was based on a 'thorough review' of international data.

Britain's historic inoculation campaign is currently reliant on Pfizer's jab, given the limited supply of Moderna and the drive to offer jabs to over-18s.

AstraZeneca's jab is not routinely being offered to under-40s because of its links to blood clots – and no other jab has yet to come on stream.

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won't get hold of any doses until later this summer.

If health chiefs make the same ruling for that vaccine, it means under-40s will still only be able to get Pfizer or Moderna until other candidates come on stream.

With hopes of vaccinating children this summer before they return to school in the autumn, it could also mean Pfizer and Moderna's jabs are given to youngsters.

Pfizer's jab has already been given the green light for over-12s in the UK and Moderna is seeking approval.

Dr Aseem Malhotra, a former NHS cardiologist, told MailOnline: 'Its important that the regulator is transparent both with doctors, healthcare workers and the public regarding the potential risks of vaccines.

'Although the number of reports are very small, its important to quantify that risk to try to figure out whether there is an increased harm vs benefit [ratio] for younger people – especially children.

'This will completely change the discussion and the management of children when it comes to vaccinating against Covid.'

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention last month said there was a 'likely association' between the Pfizer and Moderna jabs and myocarditis and pericarditis in young adults.

Health officials found that the very rare side effect mostly occurs in men aged between 18 and 24, with 233 reports in that group after 3.6million second doses.

In that many people in the average population, two to 25 cases would be expected.

The US Food and Drug Administration, which is responsible for protecting public health, said it would add a warning about the risk of the condition to information sheets for mRNA Covid vaccines.

Walling about the fisk of the condition to information sheets for higher covid vaccines.

Dr June Raine, MHRA's chief executive, said: 'Over 79million doses of Covid vaccines have been administered in the UK, saving thousands of lives, and our advice remains that the benefits of getting vaccinated outweigh the risks in the majority of people.

'We have carefully reviewed reports of suspected adverse reactions involving types of heart inflammation known as myocarditis and pericarditis and we have concluded that the Covid vaccines made by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna may be linked with a small increase in the risk of these very rare conditions.

'The cases tended to be mild and the vast majority recovered with simple treatment and rest.

'The available evidence for AstraZeneca's Covid vaccine does not suggest an increased risk of myocarditis or pericarditis.

'No medicine is without risk, and in this case the risk appears to be small. We will continue to monitor this issue closely.

'The benefit risk balance for the Pfizer/BioNTech and for the Moderna vaccine remain favourable. It is still vitally important that people come forward for their first and second vaccination when invited to do so,

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Healthy US boy, 13, dies in his sleep three days after receiving his second dose of Pfizer's Covid vaccine

© Provided by Daily Mail Jacob Clynick, a healthy boy with no underlying conditions, received his second shot of the Pfizer vaccine at Walgreens in Zilwaukee on June 13, according to his aunt

A 13-year-old from Michigan has died in his sleep three days after receiving his second coronavirus vaccine, prompting an investigation by the Centers for Disease Control.

Jacob Clynick, a healthy boy with no underlying conditions, received his second shot of the Pfizer vaccine at Walgreens in Zilwaukee on June 13, according to his aunt Tammy Burages.

She told The Detroit Free Press that the only side effects Jacob had experienced from the vaccine were fatigue and fever, which are considered normal.

He complained of a stomach ache on June 15 and went to bed, where he died in his sleep, Ms Burages said.

An autopsy was performed but Jacob's official cause of death has yet to be determined.

It comes amid a growing international debate over whether children should be vaccinated against coronavirus after a CDC advisory group said there is a 'likely link' between cases of heart inflammation in adolescents and young adults, and the Pfizer and Moderna Covid vaccines.

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