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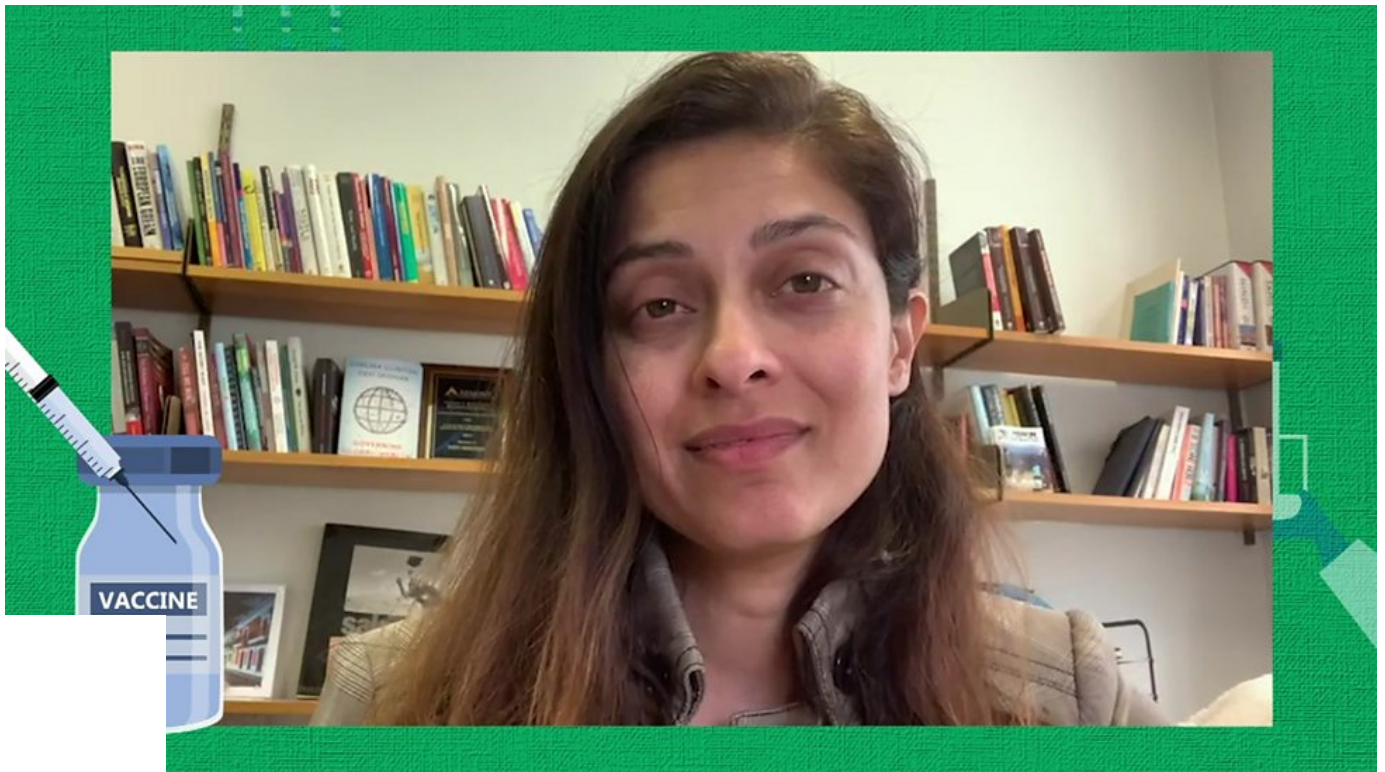
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# Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year olds: Your questions answered

© 10 Jun 2021 Last updated at 18:59

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WATCH: Professor Devi Sridhar answers your questions about one of the Covid-19 vaccines and children

## The Pfizer coronavirus vaccine has been approved for 12 to 15 year-olds in Britain.

The UK's medicine regulator, the MHRA, says the injections are "safe and effective" for children in that age group and that the "benefits far outweigh any risk".

However, a final decision on whether children will or won't receive the jab hasn't been made yet.

More than half of all adults in the UK have now had both doses of a coronavirus vaccine, the final decision on whether kids will also be vaccinated is now up to the UK's vaccines committee.

Newsround's been putting YOUR questions to Professor Devi Sridhar, who is the Chair of Global Public Health at the University of Edinburgh.

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## Is it safe for children?



GETTY IMAGES

Professor Devi: "There are some side effects like headaches and fatigues, but in at least two months [of trials] there was nothing actually significant."

## When are children likely to get the vaccine?

Professor Devi: "The Pfizer vaccine has been approved in the UK as being safe and effective and the question now is 'when will children get it?'.

"It looks likely to be once people in their 20s are done, then it will move down to younger age groups.

"So the next group to get it, after those in their 20s, will be those who are 12 and older - probably starting with vulnerable children first."

## Why won't under 11s get it yet?



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Professor Devi: "Those younger than 12 won't get the vaccine yet because it hasn't been trialled in children under 12.

"There are trials ongoing to try and change the dosage to make it more appropriate for younger age groups.

"But right now nowhere is there a vaccine that has been deemed safe for children under the age of 12."

## Does the vaccine work?

Professor Devi: "So when the Pfizer vaccine was trialled among children in the United States, they found absolutely no cases of illness in the group that received the vaccine.

"So it looks like the vaccine does protect against getting Covid-19."

## Will the vaccine for children be the same as the adult version?



WATCH: Dr Xand explains more about the Pfizer vaccine

Professor Devi: "The child and adult version of the Pfizer vaccine are actually exactly the same.

"The vaccine has already been used in millions of adults and now it has been trialled in children and rolled out already in the United States and in Israel."

### **I'm scared of injections, will the vaccine be available as a spray or tablet instead?**

Professor Devi: "Unfortunately, at this point, the vaccine is only available as an injection.

"But it really doesn't hurt too much, just a quick pinch into your arm for the first time.

"And then several weeks later, the second one and then you're fully protected."

**Find out more here:**

**[Pfizer vaccine approved for 12 to 15 year olds](#)**

## What are the pros and cons of children having the coronavirus vaccine?



Professor Devi: "The benefit of getting the vaccine is you don't need to worry about Covid-19.

"It means you're likely to not infect your parents, the people you live with and your teachers.

"The downside is it's another jab, another injection into your arm. But the benefits definitely outweigh the risks."

## What are the side effects after having the Pfizer jab?

Professor Devi: "Some children experience similar side effects to adults - these include fatigue (feeling tired), having a headache, feeling generally unwell, but these cleared within a day or two.

"And it seems a small price to pay for actually being protected from the real disease."

**Correction: This article has been amended to remove a reference by a contributor that the Pfizer vaccine is "100% safe".**

**The UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has said:**

**"We have carefully reviewed clinical trial data in children aged 12 to 15 years and have concluded that the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective in this age group and that the benefits of this vaccine outweigh any risk.**

**"We have in place a comprehensive safety surveillance strategy for monitoring the safety of all UK-approved COVID-19 vaccines and this surveillance will include the 12- to 15-year**

age group.

"No extension to an authorisation would be approved unless the expected standards of safety, quality and effectiveness have been met.

"It will now be for the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to advise on whether this age group will be vaccinated as part of the deployment programme."

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G

**Guineapig2**

17:57 10 Jun

Hopefully every child under the age of 18 should one day get the vaccine but some less fortunate people worldwide might not get the vaccine, but in a few years time 99% of the world would have the vaccine but of course many like me are dreading the needle, but actually it is miniature and only takes one second to have it, most people are ill with side effects like headaches, muscle aches and fatigue but you are more likely to get these with your second job.

Thankyou for your time Newsround

thank you too for taking the time to read this

best wishes  
guineapig2

 [Reply](#)

1  

G

**Guineapig2**

18:02 10 Jun

*to Guineapig2* ["Hopefully ... "](#)

sorry

Hopefully every child under the age of 18 should one day get the vaccine but some less fortunate people worldwide might not get the vaccine, but in a few years time 99% of the world would have the vaccine but of course many like me are dreading the needle, but actually it is miniature and only takes one second to have it, most people are ill with side effects like headaches, muscle aches and fatigue but you are more likely to get these with your second job.

Thankyou for your time Newsround

thank you too for taking the time to read this

best wishes  
guineapig2

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0  

**D** **dolphin100**  
11:59 9 Jun

hopefully we do get the vaccine. :)

 **Reply**

2  

**U** **U19457418**  
08:16 10 Jun

to *dolphin100* "**hopefully ...** "

I hope we do too. It would be nice to know the spread of covid is going down. But, at the same time, I really hate needles so not so good for me.

 **Reply**

0  

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**A** **Arshia**  
19:24 8 Jun

do children in primary need to take the vaccine

 **Reply**

0  

**P** **Puppygiraffe234**  
19:30 8 Jun

to *Arshia* "**do children...** "

I don't think so. Not yet at least

 **Reply**

0  

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**A** **Arshia**  
19:22 8 Jun

seeing what's happened so far do you think that this is the end of the virus or is it only the start ?

 **Reply**

0  



**A** **ausisturious**  
17:44 8 Jun

I want to have a vaccine soon

 [Reply](#)

0  

**Roxie**  
17:32 8 Jun

This comment was removed because it broke the rules. [Explain](#)

**R** **redapples**  
17:57 8 Jun

to Roxie "[This post h...](#)"

loads of people are ill with side effects. Every vaccine will have side effects. It's better then catching covid

 [Reply](#)

0  

[More replies \(3\)](#) 

**P** **peanutthepro**  
17:30 8 Jun

Will thy people who have had the first one will they need and second one and next need to wear a mask

 [Reply](#)

0  

**R** **RabbitRainbowRose**  
17:16 8 Jun

I am nervous for the vaccine but will have it to protect my family, friends and myself.

 [Reply](#)

0  

**M** **Midnight Tiger spaniel**  
15:52 8 Jun

Mine was on there!

 [Reply](#)

1  

**R** redapples  
10:43 8 Jun

Under 11s should have it

 Reply

2  

**C** CheekyLemon  
11:36 8 Jun

to redapples "[Under 11s ...](#) "

I think they should be able to have it when it's safe. It's not currently.

 Reply

4  

[More replies \(8\)](#) 

**R** Rocky  
08:18 8 Jun

Not sure if my question was answered as someone asked the same as me

 Reply

0  

**M** Midnight Tiger spaniel  
15:52 8 Jun

to Rocky "[Not sure if ...](#) "

it was as i saw your display name by the question

 Reply

0  

**L** LilacSwimmingmermaid  
08:12 8 Jun

I'm scared what if it makes me have a severe cold 😬

 Reply

1  

**A** Aashna  
19:14 9 Jun

to LilacSwimmingmermaid "[I'm scared ...](#) "

it will only last a bit :) you should be fine after a week or so

 Reply

0  

S

**SpannerSloth**

07:48 8 Jun

Yay! We've come so far already!!!

[Reply](#)

1

J

**Jack**

07:47 8 Jun

Will under 11 year olds get the vaccine?

[Reply](#)

0

A

**Astronomylover**

18:23 8 Jun

to Jack ["Will under ..."](#)

No. Not yet. It's what it said.

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