

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Guidance for children and young
people with kidney disease
30 January 2021



THE RENAL
ASSOCIATION
founded 1950

What are the current recommendations for vaccination?

Currently, the vaccination programme from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) prioritises people most at risk of severe infection. Young people aged 16 years and older are included in this guidance, which can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2NE5270>

As children remain at low risk they are not included in the first phase of vaccination.

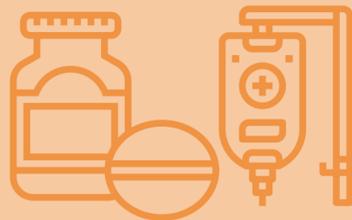


Young people (16 years and older)

- Young people who are **clinically extremely vulnerable** are eligible for vaccination now and will shortly be invited for vaccination. This applies:



If you have received a kidney transplant **in the last 3 months**



While receiving high dose steroids (20mg+/day) **together with another strong immune medicine and for 4 weeks afterwards**



If **your kidney team** says you are high risk

- Young people **waiting for a kidney transplant** are recommended to receive the vaccine at the same time as those who are clinically extremely vulnerable. This applies if:
 - You are on (or about to be put on) the national transplant waiting list.
 - You are waiting for a living donor kidney transplant.
- We recommend young people receive the vaccine pre-transplant if possible but this should not delay a planned operation. Vaccination can instead be given after transplantation.
- Young people who have **chronic kidney disease stages 3-5, are on dialysis, have a kidney transplant or have active nephrotic syndrome (on treatment)** will be included in JCVI priority groups. Vaccination for this group is expected to begin in late February 2021.

Children (under 16 years of age)

- To date, clinical vaccine trials have focused on people aged 16 years or older. As a result, COVID-19 vaccines are **not currently approved** for routine use in children under 16 years.
- We wait for information about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in children before the government extends the vaccine programme.
- A small number of children with kidney disease will be considered as clinically extremely vulnerable. We advise that these children continue to follow government guidance and shield. Children considered at very high risk of infection will be contacted by their kidney team.
- Data from scientific studies suggests most children with kidney problems or transplants **remain at low risk of severe infection from COVID-19.**

We recommend that you attend for vaccination when you are invited.

If you have any questions about your or your child's care, please speak to your kidney team. For more information, please see our webpage: <https://bit.ly/39vStE6>