

*Disclaimer: We kindly ask to acknowledge that due to the diverse and heterogeneous nature of the questions and the dynamic pandemic situation some of the information might be incomplete or only correct for the time being. Thus, please consider the date and date of the last update with the below information. All available information was provided by a country representative from the PHIRI network during or in connection to the respective meeting.*

Date: 06.12.2021 Last update: 09.12.2021

Table 1: Part 1: Country response: COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR CHILDREN

Country	COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR CHILDREN	Vaccination strategy in place (Y/N)	Vaccinations below 12 (5-12) years are recommended (Y/N)
<b>Albania</b>	In Albania vaccination of people under 18 for COVID-19 is not yet possible.	No	No
<b>Austria</b>	<p>The National Vaccination Committee recommended vaccination with Comirnaty© for all children between 5 and 11 years and especially for children belonging to risk groups on 25 Nov. 2021.</p> <p>Until the reduced-dose paediatric vaccine batches are available in Austria the national vaccination advisory committee recommends to use one third of an adult dose.</p> <p>The second dose is given after 3 weeks.</p> <p><a href="https://www.sozialministerium.at/Corona-Schutzimpfung/Corona-Schutzimpfung---Fachinformationen.html">https://www.sozialministerium.at/Corona-Schutzimpfung/Corona-Schutzimpfung---Fachinformationen.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:de8b7875-5577-44af-8d8f-ea68a2895957/COVID-19-Impfung_Empfehlung_zu_Comirnaty_Kinder_5_bis_11_Jahre_Version_1_(Stand_25.11.pdf">https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:de8b7875-5577-44af-8d8f-ea68a2895957/COVID-19-Impfung_Empfehlung_zu_Comirnaty_Kinder_5_bis_11_Jahre_Version_1_(Stand_25.11.pdf</a></p> <p>Children can receive vaccination at the communal vaccination centres just like adults. Vienna has just launched a pilot project in eight select primary schools where vaccines will be administered on-site.</p> <p><a href="https://kurier.at/chronik/wien/pilotprojekt-wiener-kinder-werden-bald-an-der-schule-geimpft/401820367">https://kurier.at/chronik/wien/pilotprojekt-wiener-kinder-werden-bald-an-der-schule-geimpft/401820367</a></p> <p><a href="https://coronavirus.wien.gv.at/impfen-an-volksschulen-startet/">https://coronavirus.wien.gv.at/impfen-an-volksschulen-startet/</a> accessed 4.12.2021</p>	Yes	Yes
<b>Belgium</b>	So far, BE has no specific strategy for children for children under 12 years. The MoH ordered doses to be expected for receiving in December/early January. The Ethic committee will discuss whether vaccination should be provided to children under 12 years. It is not yet agreed on, but doses are already ordered if a positive final decision would be given.	No	No
<b>Croatia</b>	There is no vaccination strategy for children under 12 years in HR in place.	No	No
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Yes, vaccination for children under 12 years is recommended in CZ, however, there is no special strategy. Vaccination registrations for children under 12 years will start next Monday; thus, vaccination could start in the second half of December. Schools have not yet been involved in vaccinating. The Government is discussing on specialized groups to be involved. So far, GP's, as well as some vaccination centres and hospitals will participate in vaccinating children under 12 years, but they should be supervised by pediatric personnel.	No	Yes
<b>Estonia</b>	The Estonian national immunoprophylaxis expert committee recommends vaccinating children aged 5-11. A published vaccination plan for children below 12 years does not exist yet, however, it is under discussion. Vaccines are expected to become available at the end of the year. All children in Estonia over the age of 12 can get vaccinated at schools or other institutions.	No	Yes



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<b>Finland</b>	<p>Yes, decision to vaccinate 5-11 years old who belong to the risk groups was made yesterday. Definition of risk groups will be made in coming days and vaccinations are expected to start before Christmas.</p> <p>To what extent schools, school doctors and nurses will provide Covid-19 vaccinations for children has not yet been decided but for 12+ years old children, vaccinations were in many places provided at schools which was really effective way.</p>	No	Yes (risk groups)
<b>Ireland</b>	<p>It has been announced in Ireland that the National Immunisation Advisory Committee have approved the COVID-19 vaccines for 5–11-year-olds.</p> <p>The Minister for Health has accepted these recommendations, which are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children aged 5-11 years with an underlying condition, living with a younger child with complex medical needs, and/or living with an immunocompromised adult will be prioritised for vaccination at the same time as others with underlying conditions.</li> <li>2. Vaccination will be offered to all children aged 5-11 years.</li> <li>3. The COVID-19 vaccine Comirnaty© has been recommended by NIAC for children aged 5-11 years at a dose of 10 µg (as compared with 30 µg in those aged over 12 years) to be given as a two-dose schedule, three weeks apart.</li> </ol> <p>The Department of Health and the HSE will now work to operationalise these updates.</p> <p>Additionally, a booster campaign is underway for healthcare workers, those aged 50 and above, those living in nursing homes/long-term care facilities, and those with an underlying condition.</p> <p>Initial planning is underway including engagement with Pfizer about delivery of paediatric COVID-19 vaccine and working on providing accurate information to help parents/guardians in deciding whether to get the vaccine for their children.</p> <p>There has been a sharp rise in cases recently amongst the 5-11 year age group in Ireland. The government recently announced that children over 9 years must now wear masks in shops, on public transport, and in other indoor settings (including school). This rule currently applies to those aged 13 and over. The National Public Health Emergency Team has also advised that children should avoid indoor gatherings, including birthday parties, play dates, sleepovers, nativity plays, etc, for at least the next two weeks.</p>	Yes	Yes
<b>Italy</b>	<p>Following the approval from the European Medicines Agency-EMA, in Italy, the Italian Medicines Agency-AIFA has approved the COVID-19 vaccination for children from 5 to 11 years old. The Italian Commissioner Structure has, therefore, planned in December 2021 the distribution of 1.5 million pediatric doses of the mRNA-Pfizer vaccine. The doses represent a first tranche that will then be integrated in January 2022 and will be made available starting from December the 15th, so that all the vaccination hubs of the Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces will be able to vaccinate children starting from December the 16th. The vaccination will take place with two doses of Pfizer vaccine, in a specific formulation and one third of the dosage, three weeks apart.</p> <p>The vaccination campaign for children will start in the existing vaccination hubs, where dedicated courses will be set up, but it is also planned to open to pediatricians and pharmacies, if feasible.</p> <p>As an example, for vaccinations for under 12 years old in the Lazio Region, 78 dedicated mini-hubs will be set up in all the Health Local Units-ASLs. There will be pediatricians, doctors, nurses and even 'clowns' to put the little ones at ease. For families, information pills will be available online under the supervision of the 'Bambino Gesù' Children's Hospital and the Italian Scientific Societies.</p>	Yes	Yes
<b>Malta</b>	<p>MT intends to offer vaccination for children 5-11 to vulnerable children first, and then to the rest. The precise venue for their vaccination is still being decided but it is not envisaged to be within schools, but rather in central locations.</p>	No	Yes
<b>Netherlands</b>	<p>NL has the start of a strategy</p> <p>For the benefit of the COVID-19 vaccination strategy, the Minister of Health has requested the advice of the Dutch</p>	Yes	Yes (risk groups)



	<p>Health Council (temporary Committee on Medical Aspects of COVID-19) on several issues (the third injection; the booster vaccination after Janssen vaccine; and the vaccination of young children).  The advice on vaccination of young children with increased medical risk was published on 3 December:  <a href="https://www.gezondheidsraad.nl/aankomende-adviezen/documenten/adviezen/2021/12/03/covid-19-vaccinatie-van-jonge-kinderen-met-verhoogd-medisch-risico">https://www.gezondheidsraad.nl/aankomende-adviezen/documenten/adviezen/2021/12/03/covid-19-vaccinatie-van-jonge-kinderen-met-verhoogd-medisch-risico</a>  A formatted report is pending. Next step is the Council's advice on vaccination of other children.  The Health Council of the Netherlands advises children aged 5-11 years with increased risk of a severe course of COVID-19 to be vaccinated against COVID-19.  Increased risk is for example children with chronic lung disease, congenital heart defects and Down syndrome. They are more likely to be hospitalized and are also at a higher risk of having a severe inflammatory response in the organs (MIS-C) after infection with SARS-CoV-2. Indirect negative health effects are also taken into account: restricted access to school, sports, social contacts can lead to deterioration in health and social-emotional development.  Because these children are almost always under the treatment of a pediatrician because of their condition, the council advises to place the selection with the pediatricians.  The decision to follow the advice is now up to the Minister/Government.</p>		
<b>Norway</b>	<p>For Norway, the answer is NO  <a href="https://www.fhi.no/sv/vaksine/koronavaksinasjonsprogrammet/koronavaksine/#vaksinasjon-av-barn-og-unge">https://www.fhi.no/sv/vaksine/koronavaksinasjonsprogrammet/koronavaksine/#vaksinasjon-av-barn-og-unge</a></p>	No	No
<b>Poland</b>	<p>The program to vaccinate children under 12 years is foreseen to start before Christmas with no exact date so far. Policy makers are currently discussing about the importance of vaccinations below 12. The registration system will most probably be the same as the common one. There will be a chance to register via telephone, online, via a text message or directly at the vaccination point.</p>	Yes	Yes
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>So far, there is no vaccination strategy for children under 12 years in place in PT. PT is analyzing alternatives at the moment. The coverage of persons vaccinated is 92%, only children under 12 years are missing. PT is currently providing the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of vaccine to elderly persons and health professionals.</p>	No	No
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p>SK has no specific vaccination strategy for children below 12 years in place yet.  Most likely SK will offer vaccination to children below 12 years, but they cancelled school doctors 40 years ago, so the process will be conducted by means of pediatric GPs.</p>	No	No
<b>Spain</b>	<p>On December 7, the Public Health Commission approved COVID-19 vaccination for children from 5 to 11 years old. It is expected that vaccination will decrease the accumulated incidence in this age group and will lower transmission among families and educational centres. Furthermore, vaccination will avoid acute disease and potential future complications derived from the disease in children. Children will be vaccinated with a lower dose of Comirnaty than that used in people aged 12 and above (as authorised by the EMA), and it will be administered as two shots eight weeks apart. Vaccines are planned to arrive on December 13<sup>th</sup> and will be distributed among regions according to their target population to start children vaccination on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Each region will deploy their own strategy prioritising by vulnerability and/or age. In the same line, vaccination will take place in primary care centres, hospitals, vaccination centres or schools depending on the region.</p>	Yes	Yes
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<p>In the UK, children 12+ are being vaccinated: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-for-children-aged-12-to-15/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-for-children-aged-12-to-15/</a>  For those 5-11 this is still being considered by the JCVI.</p>	No	No



Figure 2: Vaccination for children below 12 (5-12) years is recommended [09.12.2021]

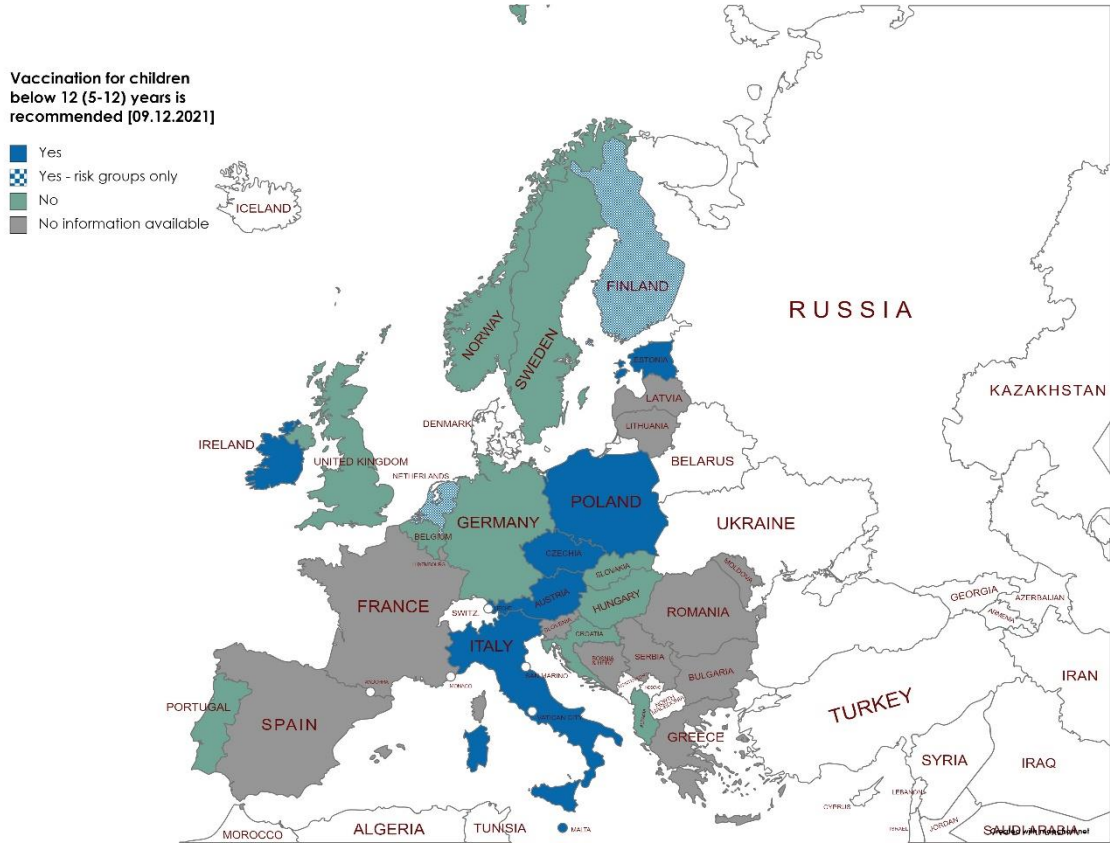
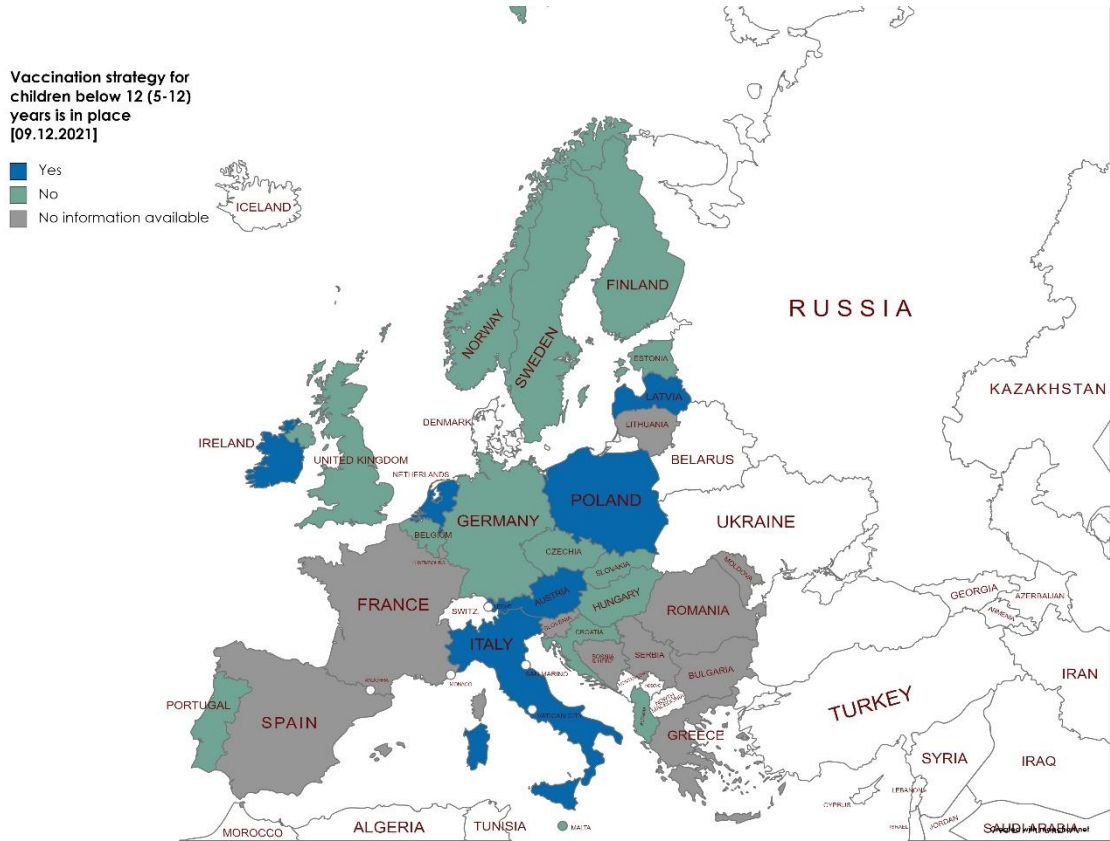


Figure 1: Vaccination strategy for children below 12 (5-12) years is in place [09.12.2021]



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