**Please use this template letter to ask the Joint Committee on Vaccines and Immunisation (JCVI) to issue guidance so all children with underlying health conditions and those that are clinically vulnerable can get access to a covid vaccine swiftly and easily.**

**Contact has drafted this template letter based on evidence from families that most want a covid vaccine for their children**.

**Please send it by email to: jcvi@phe.gov.uk**

To Members of the Joint Committee on Vaccines and Immunisation

As a parent of a clinically vulnerable child, I’m asking you to please urgently issue advice to Government now that the medicines agency (MHRA) have approved use of the Pfizer vaccine in children aged 12-15 in the UK.

My [x-year-old child/son/daughter] has an underlying health condition [include description here why they are particularly vulnerable, eg respiratory problems, complex medical needs, rare disease/syndrome etc].

We have been shielding since [insert date or delete sentence if you haven’t been shielding]. COVID has had a profound effect on our [son’s/ daughter’s] mental and physical health, access to therapies, education and on their friendships. [option to insert example here].

At the press conference on Monday, Professor Chris Whitty acknowledged the importance of vaccinating children at high risk of COVID as a priority, so please can you let me know when this will happen?

Children with underlying health conditions and those that are clinically vulnerable need the vaccine to get back to school and friends. We are feeling completely forgotten.

Meanwhile public debate has focussed almost exclusively on the ethics of vaccinating children to protect adults, with little or no mention of improving vaccine access for our clinically vulnerable children. Indeed, most people believe that clinically vulnerable children are getting a vaccine if they need it. This sadly isn’t true.

Research by the charity Contact shows that only a tiny number of clinically vulnerable children have received a vaccine off-label, but often only after a lengthy and difficult process.

This is because the current guidance in the green book is very narrow and therefore excludes the majority of clinically vulnerable children and children with underlying health conditions. It is being used by some to a create blanket policy that ignores individual needs and the discretion of individual prescribing clinicians to give a vaccine off-label.

Lockdown has left many families like ours without support, families are exhausted and continue to be concerned for the safety our clinically vulnerable children.

We hope the committee will give due consideration to our children when making their recommendations.

Yours

[Add your name and contact details]