

76 Doctors Urge UK Government Not to Authorize COVID Vaccines for Infants and Young Children



A group of 76 doctors from the UK on June 30, 2022, wrote a letter to the Medicines and Regulatory Health Products Committee (MHRA) and other government officials urging the agency not to follow in the footsteps of the “incomprehensible” U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by authorizing COVID-19 vaccines for preschoolers.

The [letter](#), published by the Children’s COVID Vaccine Advisory Council, lays out in detail how the science justifying the [FDA’s decision](#) was based on scientifically unsound and insufficient evidence and how the UK’s decision to do the same could harm innocent children who are not at risk of severe COVID.

Dr. June Raine, CEO MHRA

Professor Lim Wei Shen, Chairman JCVI COVID-19 vaccines sub-

committee

Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Jenny Harries, CEO, UKHSA

Hon. Sajid Javid, MP, Secretary of State for Health & Social Care

30th June 2022

Dear Dr. Raine,

Re: Covid-19 vaccines for 6 months to 4 years age group

We are writing to you urgently concerning the announcement that the FDA has granted an Emergency Use Authorisation for both Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines in preschool children.

We would urge you to consider very carefully the move to vaccinate ever younger and younger children against SARS-CoV-2, despite the gradual but significant reducing virulence of successive variants, the increasing evidence of rapidly waning vaccine efficacy, the increasing concerns over long-term vaccine harms, and the knowledge that the vast majority of this young age group have already been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 repeatedly and have demonstrably effective immunity. Thus, the balance of benefit and risk which supported the rollout of mRNA vaccines to the elderly and vulnerable in 2021, is totally inappropriate for small children in 2022.

We also strongly challenge the addition of Covid-19 vaccination into the routine child immunisation programme,^[i] despite no demonstrated clinical need, known and unknown risks (see below), and the fact that these vaccines still have only conditional marketing authorisation.

It is noteworthy that the [Pfizer documentation](#)^[ii] presented to the FDA has huge gaps in the evidence provided:

- The protocol was changed mid-trial. The original 2-dose schedule exhibited poor immunogenicity with efficacy far below the required standard. A third dose was added by which time many of the original placebo recipients had been vaccinated.
- There was no statistically significant difference between the placebo and vaccinated groups in either the 6–23-month age group or the 2-4-year-olds even after the third dose. Astonishingly the results were based on just three participants in the younger age group (1 vaccinated and 2 placebo) and just seven participants in the older 2–4-year-olds (2 vaccinated and 5 placebo). Indeed, for the younger age, the confidence intervals ranged from minus 367% to plus 99%. The manufacturer stated that the numbers were too low to draw any confident conclusions. Moreover, these limited numbers come only from children infected more than 7 days after the third dose.
- Over the whole time period from the first dose onwards (see page 39 Tables 19 & 20), there were a total of 225 infected children in the vaccinated arm and 150 in the placebo arm, giving a calculated vaccine efficacy of only 25% (14% for the 6-23 months, and 33% for 2-4s).
- Over the whole time period from the first dose onwards (see page 39 Tables 19 & 20), there were a total of 225 infected children in the vaccinated arm and 150 in the placebo arm, giving a calculated vaccine efficacy of only 25% (14% for the 6-23 months, and 33% for 2-4s).
- The additional immunogenicity studies against Omicron, requested by the FDA, only involved a total of 66 children tested one month after the third dose (see page 35).

It is incomprehensible that the FDA considered that this represents sufficient evidence on which to base a decision to

vaccinate healthy children. When it comes to safety, the data is even thinner: only 1057 children, some already unblinded, were followed for just 2 months. It is noteworthy that Sweden and Norway are not recommending the vaccine for 5-11s and Holland is not recommending it for children who have already had Covid-19. **The director of the Danish Health and Medicines Authority** stated recently that with what is now known, the decision to vaccinate children was a mistake.[\[iii\]](#)

We summarise below the overwhelming arguments against this vaccination.

A. Extremely low risk from Covid-19 to young children

- In the whole of 2020 and 2021, not a single child aged 1-9 died where Covid-19 was the sole diagnosis on the death certificate, according to ONS data.[\[iv\]](#)
- A detailed study in England from 1st March 2020 to 1st March 2021 found only 6 children under 18 years died with no comorbidities. There were no deaths aged 1-4 years.[\[v\]](#)
- Children clear the virus more easily than adults.[\[vi\]](#)
- Children mount effective, robust, and sustained immune responses.[\[vii\]](#)
- Since the arrival of the Omicron variant, infections have been generally much milder. That is also true for unvaccinated under 5s.[\[viii\]](#)
- By June 2022 it is now estimated that 89% of 1-4-year-olds had already had SARS-CoV-2 infection.[\[ix\]](#)
- Recent data from Israel shows excellent long-lasting immunity following infection in children, especially in 5-11s.[\[x\]](#)

B. Poor vaccine efficacy

- In adults it has become apparent that vaccine efficacy wanes steadily over time, necessitating boosters at regular intervals. Specifically, vaccine efficacy has waned more rapidly against the latest Omicron variants.
- In children vaccine efficacy has waned more rapidly in 5-11s than in 12-17s, possibly related to the lower dose used in the paediatric formulation. One study from New York showed efficacy against Omicron falling to only 12% by 4-5 weeks and to negative values by 5-6 weeks post second dose.^[xi]
- In the Pfizer 0-4s trial,¹ the efficacy after two doses fell to negative values, necessitating a change to the trial protocol. After a third dose there was a suggestion of efficacy from 7-30 days but there is no data beyond 30 days to see how quickly this will wane.

C. Potential harms of Covid-19 vaccines for children

- There has been great concern about myocarditis in adolescents and young adults, especially in males after the second dose, estimated at 1/2600 in active post-marketing surveillance in Hong Kong.^[xii] The emerging evidence of persistent cardiac abnormalities^[xiii] in adolescents with post mRNA vaccine myopericarditis, as demonstrated by cardiac MRI at 3-8 months follow-up, suggests this is far from 'mild and short-lived'. The potential for longer-term effects requires further study and calls for the strictest application of the precautionary principle in respect of the youngest and most vulnerable children.
- Although post-vaccination myocarditis appears to be less common in 5-11-year-olds than older children, it is, none-the-less, increased over baseline.^[xiv]
- In the Pfizer study, 50% of vaccinated children had systemic adverse events, including irritability and fever. Diagnosis of myocarditis is much more difficult

in younger children.^[xv] No troponin levels or ECG studies were documented. Even a vaccinated child in the trial, hospitalised with fever, calf pain and a raised CPK, had no report of D-dimers, antiplatelet antibodies or troponin levels.

- In Pfizer's 5-11s post-authorisation conditions, they are required to conduct studies looking for myocarditis and are not due to report results until 2027.
- Of equal concern are, as yet unknown, negative effects on the immune system. In the 0-4s trial, only 7 children were described as having 'severe' Covid-19 – 6 vaccinated and 1 given placebo. Similarly, for the 12 children with recurrent episodes of infection, 10 were vaccinated against only 2 who received placebo. These are all tiny figures and much too small to rule out any adverse impact such as antibody dependant enhancement (ADE)^[xvi] and other impacts on the immune system.
- Also unanswered is the question of Original Antigenic Sin.^[xvii] It is of note that in a large Israeli study, those infected after vaccination had poorer cover than those vaccinated after infection.^[xviii] In the Moderna trial, N antibodies were seen in only 40% of those infected after vaccination, compared to 93% of those infected after placebo.^[xix]
- There is evidence of vaccine-induced disruption of both innate and adaptive^[xx],^[xxi] immune responses. The possibility of developing an impaired immune function would be disastrous for children, who have the most competent innate immunity, which by now has been effectively trained by the circulating virus.
- Totally unknown is whether there will be any adverse effect on T-cell function leading to an increase in cancers.^[xxii]
- Also, in terms of reproductive function, limited animal

biodistribution studies showed lipid nanoparticles concentrate in ovaries and testes.^[xxiii] Adult sperm donors have showed a reduction in sperm counts particularly of motile sperm, falling by 3 months post-vaccination and remaining depressed at 4-5 months.^[xxiv]

- Even for adults, concerns are rising that serious adverse events are in excess of hospitalisations from Covid-19.^[xxv]

D. Informed consent

- For 5-11s, the JCVI, in recommending a ‘non-urgent offer’ of vaccination, specifically noted the importance of fully informed consent with no coercion.^[xxvi]
- With the low uptake in this age group, the presence of ‘therapy dogs’,^[xxvii] advertisements including superhero images^[xxviii] and information about child vaccination protecting friends and family, all clearly run contrary to the concept of consent, fully informed and freely given.^[xxix]
- The complete omission of information explaining to the public the different and novel technology used in Covid-19 vaccines compared to standard vaccines, and the failure to inform of the lack of any long-term safety data, borders on misinformation.^[xxx]

E. Effect on public confidence

- Vaccines against much more serious diseases, such as polio and measles, need to be prioritised.^[xxxi] Pushing an unnecessary and novel, gene-based vaccine onto young children risks seriously undermining parental confidence in the whole immunisation programme.
- The poor quality of the data presented by Pfizer risks bringing the pharmaceutical industry into disrepute and

the regulators if this product is authorised.

In summary, young healthy children are at minimal risk from Covid-19, especially since the arrival of the Omicron variant.

Most have been repeatedly exposed to SARS-CoV-2 virus, yet have remained well, or have had short, mild illness. As detailed above, the vaccines are of brief efficacy, have known short- to medium-term risks, and unknown long-term safety. Data for clinically useful efficacy in small children are scant or absent. In older children, for whom they are already licensed, they have been promoted via ethically dubious schemes to the potential detriment of other, and vital, parts of the childhood vaccination programme.

For a tiny minority of children for whom the potential for benefit clearly and unequivocally outweighed the potential for harm, vaccination could have been facilitated by restrictive licenses. Whether following the precautionary principle or the instruction to First Do No Harm, such vaccines have no place in a routine childhood immunisation programme.

Professor Angus Dalglish, MD, FRCP, FRACP, FRCPath, FMed Sci, Principal, Institute for

Cancer Vaccines & Immunotherapy (ICVI)

Prof Anthony Fryer, Ph.D., FRCPath, Professor of Clinical Biochemistry, Keele University

Professor David Livermore, BSc, PhD, Retired Professor of Medical Microbiology, UEA

Professor John Fairclough FRCS FFSEM retired Honorary Consultant Surgeon

Lord Moonie, MBChB, MRCPsych, MFCM, MSc, House of Lords, former parliamentary under-

secretary of state 2001-2003, former consultant in Public Health Medicine

Dr. Abby Astle, MA(Cantab), MBBChir, GP Principal, GP Trainer, GP Examiner

Dr. Michael D Bell, MBChB, MRCGP, retired General Practitioner

Dr Alan Black, MBBS, MSc, DipPharmMed, Retired Pharmaceutical Physician

Dr. David Bramble, MBChB, MRCPsych, MD, Consultant Psychiatrist

Dr. Emma Brierly, MBBS, MRCGP, General Practitioner

Dr. David Cartland, MBChB, BMedSci, General practitioner

Dr. Peter Chan, BM, MRCS, MRCGP, NLP, General Practitioner, Functional medicine

practitioner

Michael Cockayne, MSc, PGDip, SCPHNOH, BA, RN, Occupational Health Practitioner

Julie Coffey, MBChB, General Practitioner

John Collis, RN, Specialist Nurse Practitioner, retired

Mr Ian F Comaish, MA, BM BCh, FRCOphth, FRANZCO, Consultant Ophthalmologist

James Cook, NHS Registered Nurse, Bachelor of Nursing (Hons), Master of Public Health

Dr Clare Craig, BMBCh, FRCPath, Pathologist

Dr. David Critchley, BSc, Ph.D. in Pharmacology, 32 years' experience in Pharmaceutical R&D

Dr Jonathan Engler, MBChB, LLB (hons), DipPharmMed

Dr. Elizabeth Evans, MA(Cantab), MBBS, DRCOG, Retired Doctor

Dr. John Flack, BPharm, Ph.D., retired Director of Safety Evaluation at Beecham Pharmaceuticals and retired Senior Vice-president for Drug Discovery SmithKline Beecham

Dr. Simon Fox, BSc, BMBCh, FRCP, Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine

Dr. Ali Haggett, Mental health community work, 3rd sector, former lecturer in the history of

medicine

David Halpin, MB BS FRCS, Orthopaedic and trauma surgeon (retired)

Dr. Renée Hoenderkamp, General Practitioner

Dr. Andrew Isaac, MB BCh, Physician, retired

Dr. Steve James, Consultant Intensive Care

Dr. Keith Johnson, BA, DPhil (Oxon), IP Consultant for Diagnostic Testing

Dr. Rosamond Jones, MBBS, MD, FRCPCH, retired consultant paediatrician

Dr. Tanya Klymenko, Ph.D., FHEA, FIBMS, Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Charles Lane, MA, DPhil, Molecular Biologist

Dr Branko Latinkic, BSc, Ph.D., Molecular Biologist

Dr. Felicity Lillingstone, IMD DHS Ph.D. ANP, Doctor, Urgent Care, Research Fellow

Dr. Theresa Lawrie, MBBCh, Ph.D., Director, Evidence-Based Medicine Consultancy Ltd, Bath

Katherine MacGilchrist, BSc (Hons), MSc, CEO/Systematic Review Director, Epidemica Ltd.

Dr. Geoffrey Maidment, MBBS, MD, FRCP, Consultant physician, retired

Ahmad K Malik FRCS (Tr & Orth) Dip Med Sport, Consultant Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgeon

Dr. Kulvinder Singh Manik, MBBS, General Practitioner

Dr Fiona Martindale, MBChB, MRCP, General Practitioner

Dr S McBride, BSc(Hons) Medical Microbiology & Immunobiology, MBChB BA0, MSc in Clinical

Gerontology, MRCP(UK), FRCM, FRCP(Edinburgh). NHS Emergency Medicine & geriatrics

Mr. Ian McDermott, MBBS, MS, FRCS(Tr&Orth), FFSEM(UK), Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

Dr. Franziska Meuschel, MD, ND, Ph.D., LFHom, BSEM, Nutritional, Environmental and Integrated Medicine

Dr. Scott Mitchell, MBChB, MRCS, Emergency Medicine Physician

Dr Alan Mordue, MBChB, FFPH. Retired Consultant in Public Health Medicine & Epidemiology

Dr. David Morris, MBChB, MRCP(UK), General Practitioner

Margaret Moss, MA (Cantab), CBiol, MRSB, Director, The Nutrition and Allergy Clinic, Cheshire

Dr Alice Murkies, MD FRACGP MBBS, General Practitioner

Dr Greta Mushet, MBChB, MRCPsych, retired Consultant Psychiatrist in Psychotherapy

Dr Sarah Myhill, MBBS, retired GP and Naturopathic Physician

Dr Rachel Nicholl, Ph.D., Medical researcher

Sue Parker Hall, certified transactional analyst (CTA,

psychotherapy); MSc (Counselling &

Supervision) MBACP (senior accredited practitioner); EMDR practitioner, Psychotherapist

Dr Christina Peers, MBBS, DRCOG, DFSRH, FFSRH, Menopause specialist

Rev Dr. William J U Philip MB ChB, MRCP, BD, Senior Minister The Tron Church, Glasgow,

formerly physician specialising in cardiology

Dr Angharad Powell, MBChB, BSc (hons), DFRSH, DCP (Ireland), DRCOG, DipOccMed,

MRCGP, General Practitioner

Dr. Gerry Quinn, Ph.D. Postdoctoral researcher in microbiology and immunology

Dr. Johanna Reilly, MBBS, General Practitioner

Jessica Righart, MSc, MIBMS, Senior Critical Care Scientist

Mr. Angus Robertson, BSc, MB ChB, FRCSEd (Tr & Orth), Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

Dr. Jessica Robinson, BSc(Hons), MBBS, MRCPsych, MFHom, Psychiatrist and Integrative

Medicine Doctor

Dr Jon Rogers, MB ChB (Bristol), Retired General Practitioner

Mr. James Royle, MBChB, FRCS, MMedEd, Colorectal surgeon

Dr Roland Salmon, MB BS, MRCGP, FFPH, Former Director, Communicable Disease

Surveillance Centre Wales

Sorrel Scott, Grad Dip Phys, Specialist Physiotherapist in Neurology, 30 years in NHS

Dr. Rohaan Seth, BSc (hons), MBChB (hons), MRCP, Retired General Practitioner

Dr Gary Sidley, retired NHS Consultant Clinical Psychologist

Dr Annabel Smart, MBBS, retired General Practitioner

Natalie Stephenson, BSc (Hons) Paediatric Audiologist

Dr. Zenobia Storah, MA (Oxon), Dip Psych, DClinPsy, Senior Clinical Psychologist (Child and Adolescent)

Dr. Julian Tompkinson, MBChB MRCP, General Practitioner GP trainer PCME

Dr. Noel Thomas, MA, MBChB, DCH, DObstRCOG, DTM&H, MFHom, retired doctor

Dr. Stephen Ting, MB CHB, MRCP, Ph.D., Consultant Physician

Dr. Livia Tossici-Bolt, Ph.D., Clinical Scientist

Dr. Carmen Wheatley, DPhil, Orthomolecular Oncology

Dr Helen Westwood MBChB MRCP DCH DRCOG, General Practitioner

Mr. Lasantha Wijesinghe, FRCS, Consultant Vascular Surgeon

Dr. Damian Wilde, Ph.D. (Chartered) Specialist Clinical Psychologist

Dr. Damian Wilde, Ph.D. (Chartered) Specialist Clinical Psychologist

Dr. Ruth Wilde, MB BCh, MRCEM, AFMCP, Integrative & Functional Medicine Doctor

and others

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