



Vaccinating children without parental approval.



1 - Image 2.

In September 2021 it was announced by Nadhim Zahawi that secondary school pupils in England could receive the Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 (Covid 19) without parental consent. Vaccination programmes have run in the United Kingdom for hundreds of years, and most programmes have had huge success in reducing childhood disease. Medical decisions about a child's health are usually made by the parents/carers unless it is a decision made in an emergency when the parents/carers are not present or in a best interest decision made in a court of law. The Human Rights Act protects a parents right to make choices about their own lives and their families lives including vaccination status whilst protecting them from discrimination when making decisions about vaccines. Vaccination consent forms have always been mandatory from parents before the vaccine is given to the child not just because it is up to the parent if they chose to vaccinate their child but also for medical reasons like the child being allergic to the ingredients or suffering from a medical condition which would not make them eligible to receive the vaccine.

According to Macleod and Macleod (2021) the Ontario Ministry of Health describe there are only two valid medical exemptions from COVID-19 vaccination requirements in their country and one of those is 'having an allergic reaction to a component of the vaccine within an individual, which must be confirmed by an allergist or immunologist', How many twelve to fifteen year olds would be fully aware medicines they were or could be allergic to?

Gillick competent?



To be able to vaccinate a 12–15-year-old without parental consent Gillick Competence should have been used to decide if the children were competent enough to choose to be vaccinated. **The Potential checklist according to Griffith, R (2016) that should have been used to determine if these children were competent enough to decide whether to receive a vaccination against their parents wishes would have contained questions like:**

Does the young person have sufficient maturity to make this sort of decision?

- **Many of the young people in question were not old enough to join a social networking site, consent to lawful sexual intercourse, drink alcohol, drive a car or vote.**
- Children can be oppositional-just the fact that the child was told they can be vaccinated without their parents' consent could have led to many children having the vaccine just to go against their parents' wishes as they often do in various ways because they are not mature enough at that age to know any better.

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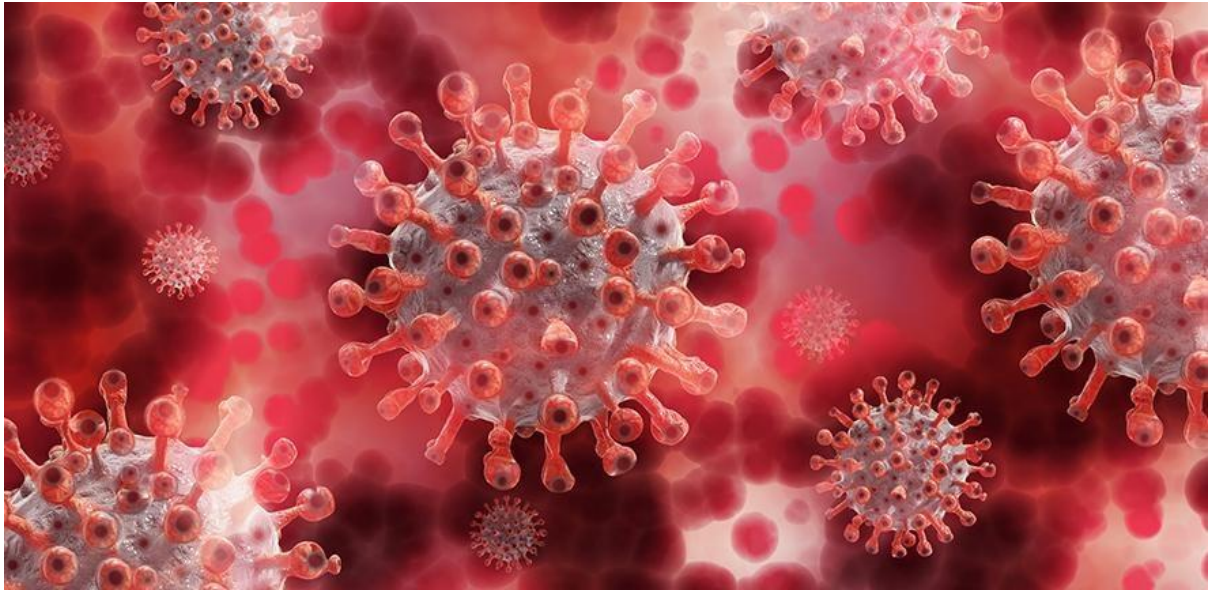
Are they sufficiently free from undue influences on their decision-making (e.g., social media, peer pressure, family pressure, fear)?

- **Every newspaper and news channel in the U.K portrayed this vaccine as a way out of the pandemic, for life to return to normal and to stop the likelihood of the elderly and at-risk dying from coronavirus=MEDIA PRESSURE.**
- How many of these children who receive the vaccine without their parent's consent did so because the rest of the 'boys' were having it? Even adults during this pandemic did not want to admit openly in public that they were not vaccinated as they were going against the majority and did not want to be judged or ridiculed for their decision, so imagine a child walking into a vaccinated classroom and admitting they had not been vaccinated=**PEER PRESSURE.**

Do they understand and are they able to weigh up the risks and benefits of immunisation?

- **The Covid 19 Vaccine is still under trial until 2023. The full risks and benefits will not be known until the trial is over and therefore these children could not have been given the correct information regarding the risks and benefits of the vaccine. Where they made fully aware that the risks from experiencing covid 19 were negligible to children and that vaccinated children could still catch and transmit Covid 19.**

What about the Influenza (Flu)?



The Flu kills thousands of people around the world every year. The flu vaccine is an optional vaccine left up to the parents to decide if their child should receive it. According to Gov.uk (2021) 'the risk of serious illness from flu is higher among children under 6 months of age'. Why are vaccines not mandatory for babies if this is the case? Parents can decide not to vaccinate against a flu virus which is present, highly contagious, fatal all year around, every year and in every single country, but were not trusted enough not make the same decision for the Covid 19 Vaccine.

Side effects now well reported about the vaccines?



The list of side effects that can be caused by the vaccines administered to individuals in the United Kingdom is lengthy and some are so serious that Gov.uk (2022) has issued advice to healthcare professionals in how to detect these dangerous side effects which include:

Myocarditis

- **there have been reports of myocarditis and pericarditis occurring after vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine**
- **cases occurred most frequently in younger men and shortly after the second dose of the vaccine**
- **vaccinated individuals should also seek immediate medical attention should they experience new onset of chest pain, shortness of breath, palpitations or arrhythmias. (Gov.uk, 2022)**

Blood clots and unusual bleeding:

- **There have been reports of an extremely serious condition involving blood clots and unusual bleeding after AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccination. Some people with this condition have suffered life changing effects and some have died. These cases are being carefully reviewed but the risk factors for this condition are not yet clear there is a higher risk in people after the first dose of the AZ vaccine. (Gov.uk, 2022)**

Children are not mature enough to make decisions about vaccinations especially in this situation as they were not fully informed of the risks that have resulted because of these vaccines. Parents and

Guardians have the responsibility of making sound decisions for children until they are of age and maturity where they can make their own informed decisions especially when it concerns vaccines that weren't tested and have still not completed testing. The parents decision and wishes should have been final in this matter as they were minimal facts and risks known about the vaccines and their side effects.

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Macleod, D. and Macleod, L.F. (2021). 'Human rights exemptions to mandatory COVID vaccine policies'. *First reference talks blog*, 14 October. Available at: [Human rights exemptions to mandatory COVID vaccine policies - ProQuest \(uwtsd.ac.uk\)](http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk) (Accessed: 25 October 2022). Images Image1:

Available at:

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/95/Smallpox_vaccine.jpg/560px-](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/95/Smallpox_vaccine.jpg/560px-Smallpox_vaccine.jpg)

[Smallpox_vaccine.jpg](http://www.bing.com/images) Image 2: Available at: [human rights sign - Bing images](http://www.bing.com/images) Image 3: Available at:

[gillick competent badge - Bing images](http://www.bing.com/images) Image 4: Available at: [covid virus - Bing images](http://www.bing.com/images) Image 5:

Available at: [covid 19 vaccine bottle - Bing images](http://www.bing.com/images)