



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1187
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/12022/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair, Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

24 September 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 16 August from the Petitions Committee about offering COVID-19 vaccinations to children age 12-16.

All health boards are now offering the first dose of vaccine to those children age 12-17 identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccinations & Immunisations (JCVI) in their statement of 19 July. They have been using the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, although the Moderna vaccine is now also approved for use with children age 12-17.

The JCVI advises that children at increased risk of serious COVID-19 disease are offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. That includes children age 12 to 15 with severe neurodisabilities, Down's syndrome, immunosuppression and multiple or severe learning disabilities.

The JCVI also recommends that children and young people age 12 to 17 who live with an immunosuppressed person should be offered the vaccine. This protects their immunosuppressed household contacts, who are at higher risk of serious disease from COVID-19 and may not generate a full immune response to vaccination.

In line with earlier advice from the JCVI, young people age 16 to 17 with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious COVID-19 should have already been offered vaccination.

I trust that this information will be helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services