



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1233
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/14343/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

15 December 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter dated 25 November in relation to the petition from Lauren M calling for an end to all Coronavirus protections.

I fully recognise some of the measures put in response to coronavirus have been very challenging for people and business across Wales. These have been necessary however to prevent the spread of this terrible virus, save lives and protect our NHS.

Coronavirus has not gone away. Vaccination has helped to weaken the link between infections, serious illness and hospitalisations but it has not broken the link. This is against a background of increased urgent and emergency pressures in health and social care services, comparable to those normally experienced during the most difficult periods of winter.

In the last few weeks we have seen the emergence of the new omicron variant. This is another serious development in the pandemic and one we are taking seriously. We hope this new variant will not result in further measures. The current rules will be kept under review as we learn more about omicron and how far it has spread in Wales.

The updated Coronavirus Control Plan published in October sets out our approach to the pandemic over the autumn and winter. It sets out our continued focus on vaccination as our most effective defence. We are urgently expanding the vaccination programme in Wales, in line with the latest JCVI advice and in response to the omicron variant, making boosters available to all adults.

Wales currently remains at alert level zero. These are the lowest level of measures in place since the pandemic began.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

There are no legal limits on the number of people who can meet, including in private homes, public places or at events. In addition all businesses and premises may open.

However, we have not yet reached a position where we can remove all protections and – in line with the latest scientific and public health advice – we are keeping some key rules in place in law. In these respects collective responsibility is needed rather than personal choice.

- Businesses, employers and other organisations must continue to undertake a specific coronavirus risk assessment and take reasonable measures to minimise exposure to, and the spread of, coronavirus.
- Everyone must continue to self-isolate for 10 days if they test positive for COVID-19. If you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive and you are aged 18 or over and not fully vaccinated, you must also self-isolate for 10 days. All contacts of a confirmed or suspected omicron case must self-isolate for 10 days, whether they are vaccinated or not.
- Adults and children aged 11 and over must continue to wear face-coverings in indoor public places, with the exception of hospitality settings such as restaurants, pubs, cafes or nightclubs.
- The NHS Covid Pass is compulsory to prove you are vaccinated or have tested negative to gain entry to large events, nightclubs, cinemas, theatres and concert halls.

The Coronavirus Regulations in Wales must be reviewed every 21 days to ensure they remain necessary, proportionate and effective. This includes balancing the direct harms arising from coronavirus with the wider social, economic and wellbeing impact of measures. The Regulations are currently scheduled to expire on the 25 February.

I am clear the measures in place remain necessary if we are collectively going to keep Wales safe.

Yours sincerely,



Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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