



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1266
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/01112/22

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

30 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 9 March in your capacity as Chair of the Petitions Committee in relation to Petition P-06-1266: Age appropriate testing for Covid in Children.

I acknowledge the petitioner's concern that swabbing is an unpleasant experience for children. That is why I agreed to stop advising routine testing of children under five in October 2021. Under-fives do not need to get tested unless advised by a doctor. I am also open to using new technology to improve COVID-19 testing services.

Manufacturers or distributors supplying COVID-19 tests must apply to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for approval. Their product must meet the Medical Devices (Coronavirus Test Device Approvals) Regulations 2021. Unfortunately the lollipop swab has not been approved by the DHSC.

Information for test manufacturers or distributors who wish to apply for approval of their tests to sell on the UK market is available from GOV.UK www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-test-approval-how-to-apply

We are working with Public Health Wales and health boards to introduce a different type of swab for children known as a buccal swab. A buccal swab is a way to collect a sample from the cells on the inside of the subject's cheek. Buccal swabs are a relatively non-invasive way to collect samples for testing. We expect buccal swabs to be available in the summer.

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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.

I hope this information will be useful 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