



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1252
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/00365/22

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

29 April 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 20 January from the Petitions Committee concerning Petition P-06-1252, which asks the Welsh Government not to vaccinate children 12 years and younger against COVID-19. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in replying.

Following regulatory approval for use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in children aged 5 to 11, from the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority (MHRA), the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised on 22nd December 2021 that the vaccine should be offered to 5 to 11 year olds who have health conditions that put them at risk from the virus, or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed. On the 16th February 2022, JCVI extended their recommendation to offer the vaccine to all children aged 5 to 11 years. In providing this advice, the JCVI stated it was a one-off pandemic response programme and they would review whether, in the longer term, an offer of vaccination to this, and other paediatric age groups, continues to be advised.

I accepted this advice along with the other UK Health Ministers and, in Wales, we began to roll-out the “at risk” offer in January 2022 and the “universal” offer in March 2022. The key considerations around this advice can be found via this link:

[JCVI statement on vaccination of children aged 5 to 11 years old - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-statement-on-vaccination-of-children-aged-5-to-11-years-old)

It should be noted the vaccine is not mandatory and families can choose whether to have the vaccine or not. The Office of the Chief Medical Officer has written to all eligible children and their families with links to trusted and factual information on the vaccine so they can make an informed choice about taking up the offer. This has been shared through school communication channels. There are also excellent age-appropriate videos and information on the Public Health Website.

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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 would encourage families to have conversations about the offer and spend time considering the information before deciding whether or not to accept the vaccine when offered.

I hope this information is helpful.

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