



Ein cyf/Our ref: VG/0479/21

Angela Burns MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

9 February 2021

Dear Angela,

I am writing to you as promised to update you and other Members on the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme roll out in care homes across Wales.

Protecting the vulnerable has always been at the heart of our response to the pandemic and remains at the forefront of our fightback against this terrible disease. This is why one of the markers in our national strategy was to vaccinate the first priority group set by the UK's independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) – People living in a care home for older adults and their staff carers – by the end of January.

We set out to reach all those care homes that it was possible to reach by the end of January and to make sure that plans were in place for those care homes that have had Covid-19 outbreaks and incidents to be done as soon as possible. I was pleased to be able to confirm to the Chamber on 2 February that we had achieved this marker, all the care homes health boards could have reached safely had been reached.

We know that of the homes that have not yet been completed, there are staff and residents that have been vaccinated. But because risk assessments have ruled parts of the homes out of bounds for vaccination teams, they have not yet been marked as completed by health boards as they have not been safe for vaccination teams to visit. Visits are planned for these homes as soon as it is safe to do so.

We are not stopping despite reaching our Strategy marker. Since 2 February, and at the timing of writing, a further 350 care home residents have received their first dose of vaccine. We will continue to support health boards to make plans to vaccinate residents and staff in care homes as soon as is practically possible as they are in the top priority group, no one will be left behind.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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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.