

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: WQ89632

Rhys ab Owen MS
Senedd Regional Member for South Wales Central

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27 November 2023

Dear Rhys

Thank you for your recent written question asking me how I intend to improve the slow uptake of winter vaccinations among those aged 65 and over.

More than 1.2 million vaccinations have been delivered so far this autumn in Wales. Uptake amongst the over 65s has been steady with almost 63% having received their flu vaccine and over 55% having received their COVID-19 booster.

Wales is facing similar challenges to other UK nations in relation to uptake for both flu and COVID-19 vaccination this season.

We continue to work closely with health boards through the vaccination team in the NHS Executive to understand the challenges being faced and to ensure every available action is taken, as quickly as possible, to remove barriers to uptake and encourage people to come forward.

Earlier this month the Chief Medical Officer reiterated the importance of getting vaccinated for all those eligible, including those aged 65 and over. He emphasised that this is for their own protection, the protection of those they spend time with, and to help prevent the NHS from becoming overwhelmed this winter.

All health boards have started to offer walk-in appointments whilst some are offering pop-up clinics to target areas of low uptake. Particular attention is being given to ensuring people who face barriers to vaccination are supported to take up the offer. If people haven't taken up their offer so far, I would encourage them to take the opportunity to come forward, to protect themselves, our communities and our health service this winter.

Yours sincerely

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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.