



Heledd Fychan MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central

31 March 2022

Dear Heledd,

Thank you for raising the important matter of accessibility to vaccines to the Minister for Rural Affairs and Trefnydd during the Business Statement and Announcement agenda item in the Senedd on 15 March.

As we transition from pandemic to endemic, we have a responsibility to learn from the last 2 years to ensure there is sufficient resilience in NHS Wales to cope with any future COVID-19 variant of concern or major incidents. Health board future proposals for deploying COVID-19 vaccinations will be included in their Integrated Medium Term Plans which outline their proposed service models and schedule as well as their policies in relation to maximising uptake, equity, surge capacity and workforce. They will also be required to regularly review and evaluate the resources and estates available to them, to adapt their deployment models to ensure the sustainability of the vaccination programme going forward.

The Spring Booster programme has a fairly narrow eligibility criteria; the over 75 yrs, elderly care home residents and people over 12 years old who are immunosuppressed. It is a relatively low number of people, some of which will be visited in their home.

Like other health boards in Wales, the long term aim of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) is to reach a point in the vaccination programme when the health board could hand back their Mass Vaccination Centres (MVCs) to the local authorities, enabling communities to use the venues for their original purpose. Collaborating with its 3 local authorities to evaluate the projected vaccination numbers, it has concluded that closing the 2 MVCs and working across the remaining 3 sites, will allow the consolidation of their workforce, enabling greater sustainability.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

The location of Community Vaccination Centres has been carefully considered, to make them as accessible as possible to the widest population. Their ease of access, the availability of on-site parking and convenience in terms of public transport routes have been uppermost in these considerations. 'Drive thru' initiatives have also been set up at Ysbyty Seren in Bridgend and Keir Hardie Health Park (beginning Mid-April), to coincide with the Spring Booster roll-out, to make access easier for those with mobility issues. For individuals without a driving licence or with no access to transport, a 'vaxi-taxi' is available to book, free of charge to those who meet certain criteria.

The Welsh Government's recently published Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy, highlighted our continued commitment to ensure people have the right information to make an informed choice and have access to the vaccine. Health boards continue to review the needs of their local population to make it as easy as possible for people to access vaccinations as close to home as possible.

I hope this goes some way to alleviate the concerns raised. Further information about the vaccine programme, the vaccination strategy and subsequent updates can be found as follows:

<https://gov.wales/covid-19-vaccination-strategy-and-updates>

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