



Our Ref: WQ83858

Adam Price MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

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Dear Adam

Thank you for your recent Written Question asking me what plans there are 'for including education workforce staff in the COVID-19 booster programme, considering their increased level of risk as a workforce'.

In the first phase of the vaccination programme, the JCVI recommended the prioritisation of individuals based on age and clinical vulnerability, which were deemed the strongest factors linked to mortality, morbidity and hospitalisations. The only occupations identified as being at an increased level of risk were frontline health and social care workers, including care home staff. An age-based approach was used to prioritise in the second phase as there was insufficient evidence persuasive enough to set specific occupations apart from the general population.

The JCVI has advised the booster campaign follows the prioritisation order of the first two phases of the programme, so that those individuals vaccinated earliest will be prioritised first, at a minimum of six months following their second dose.

More than half of key workers, including teachers, are aged over 40; therefore this group will be offered a booster vaccination, when it is their turn, as part of the current phase of the programme. Whilst the JCVI has not made a decision on booster doses for those under 40 years old, this age group will have received their first and second dose later, in line with the prioritisation order, and so will still have a high level of protection.

Yours sincerely

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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.