



Eich cyf/Your ref WQ88831 WQ88832

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1 September 2023

Dear Adam,

Please find responses to your recent Written Questions below for your attention.

***What percentage of the priority groups for vaccination against MPox have received their first and second vaccine? (WQ88831)***

For the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, data drawn from the Sexual Health in Wales Surveillance Scheme estimate that 69.1% of those eligible have received 1 dose of mpox vaccine, and 4.3% have received 2 doses. These figures may be subject to change following further submissions.

Since the initial outbreak response, Public Health Wales has been considering the establishment of a more robust surveillance system for the long term, though much will depend on the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation in relation to the future of the mpox vaccination programme.

The Welsh Government and PHW communication teams have worked closely with stakeholder groups representing those eligible. Targeted communications have issued with a renewed focus on encouraging take-up ahead of and during the summer festival season, though boosting take-up has proved challenging following a downturn in the prevalence of the virus.

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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.

***Does the Welsh Government now recommend that priority groups require two mpox vaccines and, if so, when did it adopt that position? (WQ88832)***

The UKHSA mpox strategy, published in June 2022, and endorsed by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), set out that first doses should be prioritised during the initial outbreak period, with the offer of a second dose for those at continued increased risk of exposure. This policy was adopted in Wales from June 2022.

On 26 September 2022, I issued a [written statement](#) recommending that the priority should be to offer two mpox vaccine doses to those in the high-risk cohorts – high-risk Gay, Bi-sexual and Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM), and frontline healthcare professionals – following the publication of the [UKHSA updated strategy](#).

Your 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