



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ81864

Mark Isherwood MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

23 January 2021

Dear Mark,

I am writing in response to WQ81864: As recent research by Public Health England states that the death rate from COVID-19 is six times higher for people with a learning disability than the general population, will the Minister confirm whether autistic people and/or adults with learning difficulties will be prioritised to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Autism spectrum disorder contains a very broad group of people. Those with severe autism resulting in a severe or profound learning disability are categorised by the JCVI under priority group 6, unless a clinician has identified them as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, in which case they would be considered as part of the Shielding Patients list and appear within cohort 4.

Subject to supply, Wales' Vaccination strategy, published on 11 January, gives a commitment to vaccinate priority groups 1-4 by mid- February and groups 5-9 by the spring.

Yours sincerely,

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

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@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.