



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ83166

Darren Millar MS
Member of the Senedd for Clwyd West

Darren.millar@senedd.wales

24 August 2021

Dear Darren

Thank you for your recent Written Question asking me: 'Further to the decision to offer a single dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to 16 and 17 year olds in Wales, what action will be taken to ensure that they can make an informed choice, and what safeguards will be in place to prevent them feeling coerced into vaccination'.

Following advice from JCVI, we are offering a first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to 16 and 17 year olds – [JCVI statement on COVID-19 vaccination of children and young people aged 12 to 17 years: 4 August 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-statement-on-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-17-years-4-august-2021). This aligns with the age of medical consent in the UK; people aged 16 or over are entitled to consent to their own medical treatment.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that all people who receive the vaccine do so with informed consent. In doing so, the offer of vaccination to 16 and 17 year olds will be accompanied by appropriate information to enable children and young people, and those with parental responsibility, to be adequately appraised of the potential harms and benefits of vaccination.

The vaccine is not mandatory and all eligible people can choose whether to have the vaccine or not, although we continue to encourage those eligible to take-up the offer of the coronavirus vaccine when invited. Everyone eligible will receive information about the vaccine to help make up their minds if they have any concerns.

We will continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated for their own benefit and as part of our collective national effort rather than offering individual financial incentives.

I hope this information is helpful.

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

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.