



Mae brechu yn achub bywydau
Vaccination saves lives

COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy for 2022

February 2022



DIOGELU CYMRU
KEEP WALES SAFE



sources.

Our aim

- We will continue to engage with under-served communities to re-affirm the offer of a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Working with health boards, partner organisations, community voices and those with lived experiences, we will implement further interventions to narrow the equity gaps in vaccine coverage in Wales across all age groups.

Booster vaccination

We accelerated the booster programme to get as many eligible people vaccinated as safely and as quickly as possible over the December and Christmas period in advance of the arrival of the Omicron wave, to protect the public from severe disease and the risk of hospitalisation. People responded by coming forward in their tens of thousands.

To date we have provided the booster or third dose to 70% of the population aged 12 and over. The uptake is very high but there are still people who have had their primary doses who have not yet come forward to have their booster vaccine.

The vast majority of boosters have been delivered through our vaccination centres. This model of delivery is very effective and huge numbers of people were vaccinated. However, we know from earlier stages in the vaccination campaign that some people and some areas benefit from bespoke vaccination clinics. Health boards are responsible for their local area and offering bespoke clinics for all communities in their area.

Health boards extended opening hours in mass vaccination centres late into the evenings and throughout weekends. There are walk-in centres across Wales. Health boards have set up community transport schemes to enable people to get to the centres at no cost. The changes health boards made, and are continuing to make, to their models of delivery in response to addressing vaccine inequity will also inevitably increase the booster uptake.

The JCVI has now advised a further spring booster for people over 75 years old, residents of care homes for older adults and individuals aged over 12 years who are immunosuppressed (as defined in the green book). Many of the oldest adults, and therefore most vulnerable, will have received their most recent vaccine dose in September or October 2021. These individuals are at higher risk of severe COVID-19, and with the lapse of time, their immunity derived from vaccination may wane substantially before any future autumn programme. Therefore, as a precautionary strategy for 2022, the JCVI advise a spring dose, around six months following their previous vaccine dose. We are already working with health boards to plan for this and there will be more detail in due course.

Our aim

- We will offer a second spring booster to all eligible over 75 year olds, residents of care homes for older adults and individuals aged over 12 years who are severely immunosuppressed, in line with the JCVI advice and green book.