



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 15400

06 September 2021

Dear

ATISN 15400 – COVID Evidence

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 7 August. You requested information related to Covid 19 evidence used by Welsh Government specifically:

1. A copy of the scientific evidence available to Welsh Government that "coronavirus case numbers in Wales" represents "actual Covid 19 infections in Wales".
2. Information on the "booster vaccine" that is to be offered to the most vulnerable in Wales during the Autumn of 2021.
3. A copy of the advice to Welsh Government from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation confirming it is safe for the public to have a different vaccine for the second dose.
4. A copy of the scientific evidence available to Welsh Government that prolonged wearing of face coverings is safe and does not lead to, or result in, hypoxia, hypercapnia or bacterial pneumonia.

Our response

1. A copy of the scientific evidence available to Welsh Government that "coronavirus case numbers in Wales" represents "actual Covid 19 infections in Wales".

Welsh Government does not hold this information.

There will always be more infected people than reported cases, as asymptomatic infected people will not have a test or seek treatment. The case numbers will always be an underestimate of actual COVID-19 infections.

2. Information on the "booster vaccine" that is to be offered to the most vulnerable in Wales during the Autumn of 2021.

The JCVI interim advice of 30 June recommends an autumn booster campaign begins in September 2021, its purpose being to reduce any further incidence of Covid-19 and maximise protection in those who are most vulnerable to serious infection, ahead of the winter months. This was interim advice and the JCVI is currently developing their final

advice, with an expected announcement in September. A link to this interim advice can be found here:

[JCVI interim advice: potential COVID-19 booster vaccine programme winter 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/jcvi-interim-advice-potential-covid-19-booster-vaccine-programme-winter-2021-to-2022)

3. A copy of the advice to Welsh Government from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation confirming it is safe for the public to have a different vaccine for the second dose

Clinical advice on second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, including advice on using a different vaccine to the first, can be found in chapter 14a of the Greenbook. The Greenbook provides the latest information on vaccines and vaccination procedures for UK health professionals, for vaccine preventable infectious diseases in the UK. A link to this chapter can be found below:

[COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a)

4. A copy of the scientific evidence available to Welsh Government that prolonged wearing of face coverings is safe and does not lead to, or result in, hypoxia, hypercapnia or bacterial pneumonia.

Welsh Government does not hold scientific evidence that prolonged wearing of face coverings does not lead to, or result in, hypoxia, hypercapnia or bacterial pneumonia. However, the Covid Evidence Centre published a paper in July 2021 which looks at the evidence of harm from wearing face coverings.

[RR 00007 Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre Rapid Review. Face coverings 27th July 2021. Final.pdf \(primecentre.wales\)](https://www.primecentre.wales.gov.uk/RR00007-Wales-COVID-19-Evidence-Centre-Rapid-Review-Face-coverings-27th-July-2021-Final.pdf)

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,