



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Boosters offer extended to all adults

### Advice to employees and staff

The Covid-19 vaccination programme is the biggest in NHS history. In Wales, the **vast majority of adults have had two doses** and the booster programme is well underway.

Vaccines are still our **best defence against this virus**. They are safe, millions of people have now had at least two doses, and they work.

However, the protection offered by vaccines reduces over time, so it was recommended by the independent Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation to offer all adults **a booster vaccine** to extend their protection.

Emerging evidence shows that a booster vaccine offers good protection against the Omicron variant, which is spreading fast. We need to do what we can to **protect ourselves and help the NHS**.

Vaccination is a choice – there are no plans to mandate it in Wales. But, we are asking people to **do the right thing**.

### Further information

It is understandable that people have questions or concerns. There are answers on Public Health Wales's website [link below] to many of the questions employees may have, as well as facts around fertility, vaccine effectiveness, and safety. Check the FAQs link for more information.

### The role of employers

We are urging employers in Wales to encourage employees to be vaccinated.

Organisations play a vital role in helping to promote a positive vaccination message to make sure workplaces are safe and employees are protected. Only through collective effort, will we help people to make well informed decisions and encourage as many people as possible to get their Covid-19 booster.

## **What can employers do to encourage employees to get the vaccine?**

- Be as flexible as possible when it comes to staff getting the vaccine, which could include giving paid time off work for employees to attend their vaccination appointment.
- Share messaging through staff networks, intranet and social media. There are some materials in the Welsh Government's Asset Bank included below.

## **How do I get my booster vaccine?**

People will be invited by their health board for a booster when they are eligible (this will be at least 3 months after the second dose). This will be by text, phone or letter.

Please take the appointment offered. It really helps the NHS if they can get the vaccine out to protect as many people as possible. It's in everybody's interests to get it as soon as they're invited.

If an adult has been ill with Covid, they need to wait 28 days after infection before being vaccinated, and let their health board know. Details for all health board vaccination contacts are here <https://gov.wales/get-your-covid-19-vaccination>.

Even if someone has had two doses and a Covid-19 infection, they should still get their booster when eligible. It will extend protection and could prevent serious illness in future.

## **Key messages:**

- Vaccines are our best defence against Covid-19. They are the best way to protect yourself and those around you from the virus. Join the millions already vaccinated.
- It's the biggest vaccination programme in NHS history and has already saved thousands of lives.
- Vaccinated people are far less likely to get symptoms from Covid-19. They are even more unlikely to get seriously ill, be admitted to hospital or die from it. There's growing evidence that vaccinated people are also less likely to pass the virus to others.
- There are many resources available to people who have questions about the vaccine. The NHS urges everyone to be cautious of misinformation. Use trusted sources like the NHS or Public Health Wales to answer any questions.
- To get a booster, you need to have already had two doses of the vaccine. Get in touch with your health board if you need to get a first or second dose.
- Otherwise, the NHS will let you know when your vaccine is ready for you. Please wait for your invitation.

- Even after having the Covid-19 vaccine, it's essential that everyone continues to use protective behaviours. Keep a distance and limit contacts where possible, wear a face covering in crowded places and remember hand hygiene and ventilation.

## **Useful links:**

Employer guidance:

<https://gov.wales/covid-19-vaccinations-guidance-employers>

Welsh Government boosters page:

<https://gov.wales/covid-19-vaccination-booster>

Public Health Wales – Covid vaccine FAQs

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/about-the-vaccine/>