



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ90892

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Senedd Constituency Member for Aberconwy

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13 February 2024

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your recent written question asking me to provide information on the specific measures the Welsh Government is implementing to address the recent increase in whooping cough cases across Wales?

We continue to see an increase in notifications of whooping cough (pertussis) in Wales similar to other nations across the UK. We would expect to see waves of increased infection every three to four years, and it is suspected that the current increase may be down to reduced transmission during the years of the coronavirus pandemic. The best protection against whooping cough is to ensure that your child is fully vaccinated as part of their routine childhood immunisations.

Whooping cough is included as part of the 6-in-1 vaccine for babies at eight, 12 and 16 weeks, and the 4-in-1 pre-school booster for children aged three years and four months. Additionally, the whooping cough vaccine is routinely offered to pregnant women to help protect newborns until they are old enough to receive their first vaccination.

Whooping cough is a notifiable disease, and Public Health Wales continue to undertake routine monitoring and surveillance to target appropriate actions.

Public Health Wales are encouraging pregnant women and parents of babies and young children to ensure they take up their offer of vaccination when given, or to ask their GP, midwife or health visitor if they believe they may have not had it. Also, through its engagement with Heads of Midwifery, Public Health Wales has been raising awareness of the increased prevalence of whooping cough this year, and therefore the importance of increasing uptake of the pertussis vaccination amongst pregnant women.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services