



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

18 December 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to update you on the approach to Primary Care supporting Covid-19 vaccination here in Wales.

We have been engaging with colleagues from across NHS Wales and stakeholder bodies to establish a clear way forward that both supports Health Boards to deliver this critical activity whilst also ensuring we avoid over-burdening any one service.

I am encouraged by discussions around collaboration and joint working to support this critical activity in order to control the spread and impact of this virus. In seeking to find a solution that enables us to engage with Primary Care as a whole, we have welcomed the appetite from all professions to play a role in supporting this programme of work.

Whilst the Vaccination Programme is Health Board led, with a significant proportion of activity being undertaken via Mass Vaccination Centres (MVCs), Health Board plans have indicated the importance of Primary Care involvement in order to increase resource and capacity. Whilst the plans are mixed, it is likely that Primary Care will play a role across the whole of Wales.

Today, I am issuing the Legislative Directions, on behalf of the Minister for Health and Social Services, which establishes the new Primary Care Covid-19 Immunisation Service (PCCIS). This is a national contracting mechanism which Health Boards can now use in order to engage providers to deliver Covid-19 vaccination from within Primary Care. The PCCIS enables all primary care providers to engage for delivery of the Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccine, subject to MHRA approval. I plan to expand this to include further vaccines, if suitable for primary care delivery, once they are approved.

In conjunction with this contracting mechanism, Health Boards will continue to work with stakeholders to establish ways in which Primary Care can provide support directly to Mass Vaccination Centres.

The PCCIS specification has been drafted to offer significant flexibility for Health Board implementation. The specification and Directions enable Health Boards to work with you, as engaged providers, to agree how various aspects of delivery will operate, including booking and call/recall arrangements.

To ensure parity across the system and to appropriately recompense providers, we have agreed a payment of £12.58 per vaccine administered. This equates to £25.16 per patient, where both doses are administered by Primary Care, but also safeguards providers in those instances where only one dose is administered. In recognition of the efforts of the professions, particularly in regards to working at scale to deliver, we have also agreed to an additional administration fee of £400 per 1,000 vaccinations.

I trust this information helps clarify any initial queries you may have as to how this scheme will operate in Wales and would again like to extend my thanks for the positive engagement and response from all professions. Your support in delivering the vaccine to the people of Wales in a safe and timely manner is a significant part of this national effort and one which is welcomed by all parts of the system at a time where pressure is building.

I am keen to publicise the important role which Primary Care is playing in the delivery of this vaccine and I will work with stakeholder representatives to agree a communications approach for early January.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Slade', with a stylized initial 'A'.

Alex Slade

Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr- Yr Is Adran Gofal Sylfaenol

Deputy Director – Primary Care Division