

17th December 2021



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Newyddion Coronafeirws COVID-19



News Headlines

[New advice to keep Wales safe over Christmas](#)

The Prime Minister sets out a two-stage plan to respond to the existing delta variant and the new, fast-moving Omicron variant, which is expected to be the main form of the virus in the UK by the end of the month.

[First Minister Mark Drakeford sets a high goal to offer a booster appointment to all eligible adults before the end of the year.](#)

First Minister Mark Drakeford is announcing Wales' aim to offer all eligible adults an appointment for a third dose of the vaccine by the end of December.

[First Minister Mark Drakeford's update on the Omicron variant](#)

Raising the UK COVID Alert Level from Level 3 to Level 4

Following advice from the UK Health Safety Agency and in light of the rapid increase in Omicron cases, the UK Chief Medical Officers and the National Medical Director of NHS England have recommended to Ministers that the UK COVID Alert Level should be raised from Level 3 to Level 4.

Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett appointed to lead UK-wide Covid-19 inquiry

The UK Government has announced the appointment of the Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett to lead a UK-wide Covid-19 inquiry

Other News

Providing a wider range of services in pharmacies in Wales

From April 2022, all community pharmacies in Wales will be able to offer a wider range of services as a result of significant reforms agreed by the Health Minister.

£1 million to support 500 unemployed people to start a business

Economy Minister Vaughan Gething has announced that the Welsh Government is launching a £1 million fund to support up to 500 unemployed people and young people not in education, employment or training to start their own business.

Economy Minister sets out plans for Bank of Cambria, new Community Bank of Wales

Economy Minister Vaughan Gething announced that the Welsh Government is working with Monmouthshire Building Society to accelerate the establishment and operation of a community bank, Banc Cambria, across Wales.

More than 93% of Welsh farms received Basic Payments 2021

Rural Affairs Minister Lesley Griffiths announced that more than 93% of farm businesses have received full or final payments for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) 2021 today.

Wales and Scotland unite to call for discussions on UK asylum policy concerns

In a wide-ranging letter, Social Justice Minister Jane Hutt and Scottish Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison have written to the Home Office asking for urgent discussions on the significant concerns in relation to the UK Nationality and Borders Bill, and discussions have also been requested to help prevent further loss of life in the Channel.

"It is absolutely vital that men like us start to challenge our behaviour that is responsible for making women feel less safe." – Nazir Afzal, former Chief Prosecutor and Adviser to the Welsh Government

A new campaign calling on the public to challenge assumptions about harassing women - often wrongly regarded as 'innocent' - has been launched across Wales.

First Minister announces winner of Christmas card design competition

First Minister Mark Drakeford has announced that Taliesin Bryant, a year six pupil at Llannon Primary School in Llanelli, is the winner of his annual Christmas card design competition.

Guidelines

[Staying safe over Christmas](#)

To help us celebrate Christmas with our families and loved ones, we outline new guidelines and strong advice to keep us all safe.

[Get your COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Ask your local health board about the vaccine arrangements.

[Have rapid COVID-19 one-way flow tests if you don't have symptoms](#)

You should take a one-way flow test if you don't have symptoms and you're over 11.

[Get your NHS COVID pass](#)

How to get an NHS COVID Pass to show you've been vaccinated against COVID-19, or you've had a negative test.

[COVID pass: guidance for businesses and events](#)

How businesses and event organisers should check their customers' COVID-19 status.

[Visiting care homes over the festive period](#)

Frequently asked questions about visiting care homes over the festive period.

Financial support for individuals: a short guide

Here is a brief guide to the financial support that may be available to help you.

Travel and transport: advice (COVID-19)

Information for travel across Wales during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Travelling to Wales from a country on the red list: coronavirus

Explain what you must do if you arrive in Wales from a country on the red list.

Travelling to Wales: covid-19 testing and isolation

What you must do to protect Wales from coronavirus when you arrive from abroad.

Rules for children travelling to Wales: coronavirus

What rules must children follow when travelling to Wales.

COVID-19 links: guidance for health and social care staff

It sets out the requirements for staff who have direct contact with patients or service users. It describes the process for employers to follow in order to protect vulnerable people.

Schools: coronavirus guidance

Changes to learning and teaching in schools.

Policy and strategy

[Coronavirus management plan: autumn and winter 2021 update](#)

This update to the coronavirus management plan focuses on the options available to us over the autumn and winter period.

[Coronavirus management plan](#)

Coronavirus management plans set out how we will all work together to manage the risks of coronavirus in Wales.

[Test Trace Protect](#)

Our strategy for testing the general public and tracking the spread of coronavirus in Wales.

[COVID-19 vaccination programme: weekly updates](#)

Includes who is currently vaccinated and where vaccinations take place.

Legislation, Technical Advice and Statistics

[Coronavirus legislation: restrictions on individuals, businesses and others](#)

Regulations to place restrictions on individuals, businesses and others to protect public health.

Coronavirus legislation: international travel

Regulations to impose restrictions and requirements following international travel.

Coronavirus management plans

Coronavirus management plans set out how we will all work together to manage the risks of coronavirus in Wales.

Evidence and data used to inform coronavirus restrictions

The evidence the Welsh Government is using to decide how to protect everyone from coronavirus.

Coronavirus advice from the Technical Advice Cell

Information to help ministers respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in a way that is in the best interests of the people of Wales.

COVID-19 situational reports

Detailed data and information on COVID-19 incidence rates.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) related statistics and research

Latest data and analysis on the impact of coronavirus on Welsh society.

Impact assessments: coronavirus

Assessments of how our measures to manage COVID-19 impact on equality.

First Minister's Advisory Group on COVID-19 and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic People, Scientific Sub Group: risk assessment

Summarise the work completed by the Scientific Sub Group in developing a COVID-19 Risk Assessment Tool for the Workforce.

Promotional Material and Toolkits

Here's sharing with you the latest Safeguarding Wales assets. You can use them on your communication channels – website, newsletter, social media.

Christmas 2021

Here's sharing with you the new Assets of Safeguarding Wales. You can use them on your communication channels over the festive period.

NHS COVID pass: promotional package

You can display and share these posters to promote and explain the NHS COVID Pass.

KWS Torri Trosglwyddiad

The link to the new asset bank **includes all** 'break-the-transfer' assets to be used across a wide range of communication channels.

Test, Trace and Protect Promotional Material

The latest posters, explanation documents and multilingual assets are available [here](#)

Business Wales Toolkit

Practical resources to help employers keep their employees safe in the workplace.

COVID-19 risk assessment tool for the workforce

This resource helps you consider your personal risk factors for COVID-19 and recommends how you can stay safe.

NHS COVID-19 App

Do you use the NHS COVID-19 app? The app allows you to report symptoms, order a coronavirus test, and register at locations by scanning a QR code. The app does this while protecting your anonymity. If you have already downloaded the app, remember to use it - the more people use the app, the greater our chances of reducing the spread of the virus. The app is an important part of our Test, Trace, Protect program.

Self-isolation support scheme

If the NHS COVID-19 app has notified you to self-isolate, you can now apply via the app for a payment of £750 as part of the self-isolation support scheme to help with loss of earnings.

Knowledge



Education and childcare

Coronavirus guidance for parents, all those working in education and childcare providers



Businesses and employers

Support to help businesses and third sector organisations affected by coronavirus



Health advice

Staying at home, self-isolating, being supported as an extremely vulnerable person



Health and social care professionals

Coronavirus guidance for the NHS and people working in social, community and residential care



Or

Guidance for landlords, park homes (mobile) and rough sleeping services during the coronavirus pandemic



Travel

Coronavirus advice for people coming from abroad or planning to travel



Volunteering (third sector)

Volunteering during the coronavirus pandemic, support for the third sector



Community services

Planning, fire, domestic abuse and sexual violence



Jobs, skills and financial support

Help with benefits, staying at work and gaining new skills

Useful links

[Welsh Government](#)

[Public Health Wales](#)

[Business Wales](#)

[Volunteering Wales](#)

A newsletter to provide the latest information and advice from Welsh Government on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

More information on the web:

gov.wales/coronavirus

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