

Dear colleagues

I hope this email finds you well. As we approach the Welsh Government lockdown review on Friday, I thought it would be helpful if I offered you a detailed Covid update.

Generally, things are showing significant improvement all across Wales, in Gwent and across the county borough. I've provided the tables below as it provides you with detail of the new cases and positivity rates. You can see lots of green arrows pointing downwards which is good news and you will find us just below the national average, which is a significant improvement to where we were a few weeks ago – you will recall we were in the region of 900 cases per 100,000 population.

Local Authority	New cases	Cumulative cases	Last 7 days			Prior 7 days	
			Cases	Incidence*	Change**	Cases	Incidence*
Wrexham	+59	10,126	684	503.1	↓ 174.3	921	677.4
Flintshire	+30	8,066	600	384.4	↓ 98.0	753	482.4
Denbighshire	+11	3,793	252	263.3	↓ 66.9	316	330.2
Newport	+35	10,149	377	243.7	↓ 72.4	489	316.1
Bridgend	+26	11,958	305	207.4	↓ 162.5	544	369.9
Carmarthenshire	+25	9,636	388	205.5	↓ 80.6	540	286.1
WALES	+496	181,212	6,425	203.8	↓ 82.2	9,016	286.0
Cardiff	+53	23,595	730	199.0	↓ 94.0	1,075	293.0
Caerphilly	+38	12,187	351	193.8	↓ 50.9	443	244.7
AB UHB	+120	37,715	1,124	189.2	↓ 62.1	1,493	251.3
Neath Port Talbot	+19	10,724	269	187.7	↓ 76.1	378	263.8
Vale of Glamorgan	+13	6,684	247	184.9	↓ 132.5	424	317.4
Merthyr Tydfil	+7	6,187	107	177.4	↓ 126.0	183	303.4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	+29	20,038	426	176.6	↓ 91.6	647	268.2
Torfaen	+30	5,849	164	174.5	↓ 91.6	250	266.1
Powys	+6	3,374	208	157.1	↓ 40.7	262	197.8
Pembrokeshire	+14	2,974	192	152.6	↓ 1.6	194	154.2
Blaenau Gwent	+8	5,741	104	148.9	↓ 30.0	125	178.9
Gwynedd	+5	2,457	176	141.3	↓ 65.8	258	207.1
Anglesey	+12	1,569	96	137.1	↓ 17.1	108	154.2
Monmouthshire	+9	3,789	128	135.3	↓ 61.3	186	196.6
Swansea	+31	16,038	331	134.0	↓ 65.6	493	199.6
Conwy	+19	2,989	149	127.1	↓ 58.0	217	185.1
Ceredigion	+5	1,610	63	86.7	↓ 71.5	115	158.2
Outside Wales	+41	8,477	504			616	
Unknown	+12	1,679	78			95	

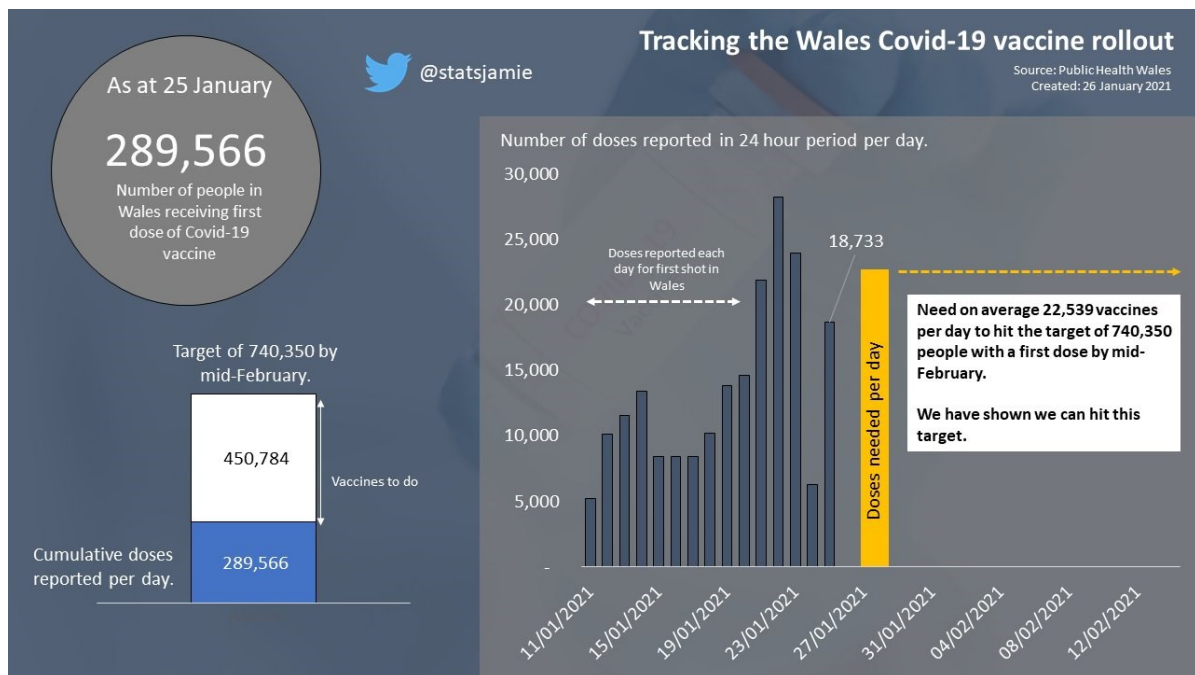
Local Authority	Last 7 days				Prior 7 days		
	Cases	Tests*	Positivity	Change	Cases	Tests*	Positivity
Wrexham	684	3,002	22.8%	↓ 3.5%	921	3,499	26.3%
Outside Wales	504	2,458	20.5%	↑ 1.1%	616	3,174	19.4%
Flintshire	600	2,981	20.1%	↓ 0.5%	753	3,654	20.6%
Bridgend	305	1,887	16.2%	↓ 5.7%	544	2,489	21.9%
Carmarthenshire	388	2,436	15.9%	↓ 1.5%	540	3,101	17.4%
Cardiff	730	4,626	15.8%	↓ 2.9%	1,075	5,746	18.7%
Neath Port Talbot	269	1,780	15.1%	↓ 2.2%	378	2,182	17.3%
Newport	377	2,534	14.9%	↓ 2.6%	489	2,790	17.5%
Vale of Glamorgan	247	1,680	14.7%	↓ 4.5%	424	2,206	19.2%
WALES	6,425	45,150	14.2%	↓ 2.6%	9,016	53,601	16.8%
Denbighshire	252	1,846	13.7%	↓ 1.1%	316	2,140	14.8%
Caerphilly	351	2,618	13.4%	↓ 0.8%	443	3,117	14.2%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	426	3,299	12.9%	↓ 3.2%	647	4,012	16.1%
AB UHB	1,124	8,894	12.6%	↓ 2.2%	1,493	10,084	14.8%
Unknown	78	623	12.5%	↓ 2.7%	95	627	15.2%
Pembrokeshire	192	1,563	12.3%	↑ 0.1%	194	1,589	12.2%
Powys	208	1,709	12.2%	↓ 2.2%	262	1,818	14.4%
Merthyr Tydfil	107	890	12.0%	↓ 3.0%	183	1,217	15.0%
Torfaen	164	1,429	11.5%	↓ 3.9%	250	1,620	15.4%
Swansea	331	2,928	11.3%	↓ 3.6%	493	3,312	14.9%
Anglesey	96	856	11.2%	↑ 1.2%	108	1,083	10.0%
Gwynedd	176	1,711	10.3%	↓ 2.8%	258	1,969	13.1%
Monmouthshire	128	1,244	10.3%	↓ 4.2%	186	1,280	14.5%
Blaenau Gwent	104	1,069	9.7%	↓ 0.1%	125	1,277	9.8%
Conwy	149	1,704	8.7%	↓ 1.8%	217	2,063	10.5%
Ceredigion	63	735	8.6%	↓ 5.6%	115	810	14.2%

Hospitals across Gwent and Wales as a whole are still under significant pressure but the numbers of in-patients being treated for COVID are falling gradually, albeit still above the Wave 1 peak. Unfortunately, there is still tragedy involved with the disease with the U.K. topping 100,000 deaths yesterday and Wales closing in on 5,000. The media coverage on this yesterday and this morning has been heart-wrenching, as it has reminded me that there are real people behind each of these numbers.

Whilst Wales is getting safer, it is not yet safe. Things may be getting better but they are not yet good enough. We are still in ALERT LEVEL 4 with all the restrictions this brings and we have been here for a month. I'd love to say that things will change shortly but I don't anticipate this changing when the First Minister makes his address on Friday setting out his three weekly review findings. Although there may be some indication from him, on how children will return to school shortly.

The vaccination programme is featuring regularly through the national media and appears to be a national political hot potato! This vaccination programme is massive and you would have noted earlier that we are playing our part, offering up Newbridge Leisure Centre as a mass vaccination centre.

The table below is accurate as of yesterday.



I know all of this feels a bit like “ground-hog” day. We have come so far but still have such a long way to go with many months of this in front of us. If Wales Government are to achieve their target of priority groups 1-4 being vaccinated by mid-February, then 22,539 vaccinations have to be delivered. Quite a large number, I’m sure you will agree.

Across the county borough all GPs are playing their part and New Tredegar and Caerphilly Leisure centres will be used to help the GP vaccination programmes in those areas. You will also be aware that our very own Ty Penallta has played a valuable role in offering vaccinations for our communities for a number of weeks. Newbridge Leisure Centre opens on the weekend, to replace Ty Penallta as it offers much more capacity and allows about 1000 vaccinations to be delivered each day. Although, this does give me a headache in terms of the forthcoming May elections, as I use both Newbridge and Caerphilly Leisure centres for the election counts.

Whilst Covid is enough to keep us all busy, we have been stretched even further. Over the last week, we’ve been dealing with floods, snow as well as our 800 other services that we continue to provide. I continue to be overwhelmed by the many great examples of public service at its best. Our schools are open with a combination of face to face, on-line and blended learning and like many of you I have first-hand experience of the daily challenges that come with home learning, but it is likely to continue for some while yet - so lots of deep breaths will be needed!

As ever please look after yourself and don’t forget to let me or your manager know if you need any help.

Remember we are in this to the end and we’re in it together. We have to pace ourselves so we all get there in one piece, to allow us to then re-group and deliver great things once again.

Easy to say I know, far harder to do – but I know I have the best team alongside me!

Take care
 Christina