

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol**  
**Minister for Health and Social Services**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref:WQ91930

Rhys ab Owen  
Senedd Regional Member South Wales Central

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Dear Rhys

Thank you for your recent written question asking what has the Welsh Government been doing to encourage parents to vaccinate their children against whooping cough.

The most effective method of controlling whooping cough (pertussis) is by maintaining high levels of immunisation among vulnerable groups or whole populations. Pertussis is included in the 6-in-1 jab given to infants at two, three, and four months, as well as the 4-in-1 pre-school booster.

As part of its responsibilities for optimising uptake of childhood vaccinations, Public Health Wales (PHW) carry out awareness raising and engagement to ensure parents have the information they need to engage with the childhood vaccination programme. This work supports the ambition to ensure parents accept the offer of vaccination when their child reaches the appropriate age to protect against whooping cough and other vaccine preventable diseases.

Since 2012 the pertussis vaccination has also been routinely offered to all expectant mothers in Wales from week 16 of pregnancy. This offer is in place to protect newborns until they are old enough to receive their routine vaccinations. We are working with PHW and health boards to encourage pregnant women to take up the offer of a pertussis vaccine to ensure their newborn baby is protected.

Yours sincerely

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**  
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**Minister for Health and Social Services**

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.