



ATISN 15718

22 December 2021

Dear ,

ATISN 15718 – Coronavirus Isolation

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 26 November regarding the isolation of the coronavirus and its variants. I have interpreted your request for information as follows:

- 1. the data that shows the original strain of covid 19/sars cov2 was isolated in accordance with the scientific method or Koch postulates*
- 2. the data that shows that the new variants have been isolated in accordance with the Koch postulate/ scientific method*
- 3. the long term scientific data that proves the jab is safe for children*

Our response

1. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention have successfully managed to isolate the COVID-19 Virus. I have attached a paper below on this matter which you can view here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/grows-virus-cell-culture.html>

Further information regarding the large-scale, rapid whole-genome sequencing of SARs-CoV-2 that has fed into the Welsh Government's public health response is available at: <https://www.cogconsortium.uk/>.

2. Welsh Government do not hold this information, further information is available at: [Homepage | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(europa.eu\)](https://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/partners/euro-pe-centre-for-disease-prevention-and-control) and [WHO | World Health Organization](https://www.who.int/)
3. Welsh Government do not hold any long term data on vaccination safety for children, however, Welsh Government has accepted the advice provided by the JCVI on the 4th August regarding the vaccination of 16 and 17 year olds. The evidence considered by the JCVI is published alongside this advice, accessible via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-statement-august-2021-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-17-years/jcvi-statement-on-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-17-years-4-august-2021>

In September 2021, the JCVI advised that for children and young people aged 12-15 without underlying health conditions, the individual health benefits from vaccination are slightly greater than the potential known harms, but that the margin of benefit, is considered too small to recommend a universal programme of vaccination. The Committee was of the view there were wider issues outside their remit to evaluate, for example, education and mental health issues, on which they recommended the 4 UK CMOs were best placed to advise.

After careful consideration, further informed by independent senior clinical and public health input from across the UK, the CMOs recommended on public health grounds that all children and young people aged 12-15, not already covered by existing JCVI advice, should be offered a first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. A link to their advice and the evidence considered is attached:

[Universal vaccination of children and young people aged 12 to 15 years against COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-aged-12-to-15-years-against-covid-19)

It was felt the additional likely benefits of reducing educational disruption and the resulting reduction in public health harm provided enough extra advantage to recommend in favour of vaccinating this group. In addition, there was a small advantage at an individual level as already identified by the JCVI. The Welsh Government has accepted this advice.

Next Steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ
or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,