

Emergency Advisory Group

Advice note

4th November 2021

Boosters, CO₂ Monitoring

Booster vaccines

The EAG would urge rapid and clear communication to ensure booster/third vaccine take up is at a high level, including clearer communication for those who are in the immuno-suppressed group

The EAG notes the recent figures showing 800 people failing to attend their vaccine appointment and urges consideration of a loosening of the criteria for booster vaccines from the current six-month timeframe to allow the unused vaccines from no-shows to be used for those in need of booster jabs.

More generally, The EAG would also urge that more communication is needed for parents of those under the age of 19 in respect of the importance of vaccination for this cohort. In particular, the EAG believes that the benefits of vaccination for children who have had Covid-19 need to be emphasised.

Clarity on the benefits of CO₂ monitoring

The EAG welcomes the DfE's initiative to allow certain businesses to improve their ventilation systems.

The EAG believes that there is not yet sufficient awareness amongst the public or businesses of the use of effective CO₂ monitoring to determine the risk in a setting from the spread of COVID-19. The EAG also notes that a number of premises are still permitting the public to use spaces where there is poor ventilation or air circulation. In order to support attitudinal change in this area, the EAG advises CoMIN to consider the use of a phone service which allows the public to report settings where CO₂ levels are higher than those recommended in the UK HSE guidance.

The EAG notes that as winter approaches and windows are less likely to be open in indoor settings, that mask wearing, along with improved ventilation will reduce the spread of COVID-19. The EAG urges the Council of Ministers to show leadership in this area and require the use of masks in public sector buildings, including on public transport.

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About the Emergency Advisory Group

The Emergency Advisory Group is a committee, appointed by the Council of Ministers, consisting of a range of people from across the community with a broad range of skills and expertise. Its primary role is to consider matters referred to it by CoMIN and provide independent advice and analysis. All its members are unpaid volunteers.

The current membership is:

Hon Jane Poole-Wilson, MHK	Minister for Justice and Home Affairs (Vice Chair)
Mr Rob Mercer, MLC	Tynwald representative
Mrs Jacqueline Bridson	
Mr Steven Christian	
Mr Peter Davidson	
Professor Peter Edge	
Dr Rachel Glover	
Ms Julie Hotchkiss	
Mr John Spellman	Chair
Mr Jonathan Wild	