

UK COVID-19 Inquiry Module 4: Vaccines and Therapeutics

Implications for Public Health Wales

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Presentation Summary

Focus

- Vaccines, therapeutics, equity and preparedness

Purpose

- Summarise key findings and recommendations
- Assess relevance to Public Health Wales
- Highlight actions already underway
- Provide Board assurance on preparedness

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Key Findings

Successes

- Rapid vaccine development and rollout
- Effective therapeutics such as dexamethasone
- Strong UK science, regulation and trial infrastructure

Areas for Improvement

- Limited pharmaceutical preparedness
- Insufficient manufacturing capacity

- Inequalities in vaccine uptake
- Misinformation and declining trust
- Better linked data needed for safety monitoring

Vulnerable Groups

- Lower uptake among deprived communities
- Some ethnic minority groups
- Disabled people, migrants and underserved populations



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Strategic Themes

Preparedness & Resilience

- Sustained investment in research, data and manufacturing

Equity

- Build vaccine access and inclusion into planning from the outset

Trust & Transparency

- Clear communication and visible fairness

System Learning

- Retain capabilities, partnerships and expertise between emergencies

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Recommendations (UK-Wide)

1. Establish Pharmaceutical Expert Advisory Panel
2. Strengthen Community Vaccine Equity Networks
3. Improve Monitoring of Uptake & Hesitancy
4. Enhance Access to Linked Health Data
5. Reform Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme

Important Note

- **None of the recommendations are directed specifically at Public Health Wales. They are aimed primarily at UK Government, Welsh Government and wider system partners.**

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PHW Assessment

Existing Strengths

- National vaccine programme leadership
- Vaccine Equity Group and Network
- Behavioural insight capability
- Clinical trial and research expertise
- Strong surveillance and analytics
- SAIL-enabled data linkage

Areas for Continued Development

- Formal pandemic research mobilisation arrangements
- Countering misinformation
- Improved UK-wide data interoperability
- Long-term preparedness investment



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Priority Areas for Welsh Government

- **Priority 1:** Pharmaceutical preparedness and research partnerships
- **Priority 2:** Vaccine equity, confidence and community engagement
- **Priority 3:** Vaccine uptake intelligence and behavioural insights
- **Priority 4:** Data linkage, surveillance and safety monitoring
- **Priority 5:** Public trust, transparency and support arrangements

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BET & Board Assurance

- **NOTE** the summary of UK COVID-19 Inquiry Module 4
- **RECEIVE ASSURANCE** regarding PHW activity supporting vaccine equity, confidence, surveillance, research preparedness and public engagement
- **APPROVE** the continued use of existing governance structures to embed learning and drive continuous improvement



Thank you: Questions...



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