

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

February 2021

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for your email about prioritising vaccines for foster carers.

As you will know, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has set out a strategy that prioritises protecting those most at risk of death and serious disease. In line with the recommendations of the JCVI, the vaccine is initially being rolled out to the priority groups including care home residents and staff, people over 80 years old and health and care workers, then to the rest of the population in order of age and risk, including those who are clinically extremely vulnerable and all individuals aged 16-64 years old with underlying health conditions.

Those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill, should also be offered vaccination in priority group six.

Once those most at risk have been protected, Phase 2 of the programme will commence. This may include targeted vaccination of those at high risk of exposure and/or those delivering key public services, such as teachers and foster carers. As with the first phase of the programme, these decisions will be guided by expert advice from the JCVI. I have let colleagues know about the case being made for prioritising foster carers.

I am very pleased by the great progress we are making locally and nationally with the vaccination programme. As you will know Darlington's Primary Care Network is working hard to deliver vaccines to the most vulnerable in the town. I am glad that foster carers across Darlington have been prioritised by Darlington Borough Council and many have already received the vaccine.

Recently, I spent a rewarding morning volunteering at Feethams House, the local vaccination centre, helping steward people in and out of the building when they came to receive their vaccine from the excellent team there. The quicker we get people vaccinated, the quicker we will be able to get back to our normal lives.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Gibson".

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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