

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-529	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2021
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**Currently if a school pupil tests positive for COVID, they have to wait 12 weeks before receiving their first vaccine, unless they come under the at-risk group.**

**My question is.**

**(1) If a pupil retests and find that they are positive towards the end of the twelve-week period, can they go ahead with their COVID vaccine or does the 12-week period start again.**

I have consulted with Public Health Wales and have been advised by the Interim Head of Vaccination at Public Health Wales that:

If it is thought to be a new infection, then the clock would start again. For those that are asymptomatic the current advice is "if you have recently tested positive for COVID-19 (within the last 90 days) you should firstly take a lateral flow test instead of a PCR. This is because there is a risk that a PCR test may detect residual traces of the virus leftover in your body." This 90-day period is longer than the 12-week period (84 days) for vaccine eligibility. Therefore, asymptomatic individuals should not be taking PCR tests that would reset the clock based on residual virus being detected, and should only be tested if symptomatic, or if the LFD was positive both of which would be indicative of possible new infection. In that instance the clock should be restarted.