

From the UK Chief Medical Officers.

21 December 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As 2021 draws to a close we mainly wanted to give an enormous thank you to all medical and wider health service staff. We have never been prouder to be members of the medical profession than over the last two grinding years.

Your tireless work has substantially reduced the impact of this pandemic on the lives of the UK public. We are well aware of the toll this has had on many members of the profession, and the support colleagues have continued to give to one another in difficult times has been essential. The collective effort on behalf of our patients and the wider public has been remarkable.

We were all hoping that COVID would be less dominant across the health service as we move into the New Year, but the Omicron variant is clearly going to put a great deal of pressure on health services and on all health professionals. We can all see the concerning numbers of Omicron-infected people rising very rapidly, some of whom will become seriously ill and need medical care. This is on top of existing Delta patients, the backlog of work from previous COVID waves, normal health service work and other winter pressures.

Currently vaccination, and booster vaccines in particular, remain our best countermeasure against this variant and the response of the whole medical profession in primary and secondary care to turn and meet this new threat has been rapid and effective.

As we face the multiple challenges of 2022, we want to reiterate our unwavering confidence in the profession and our enduring thanks.

UK Chief Medical Officers




Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Dr. Frank Atherton
Chief Medical Officer, Wales



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Prof. Gregor Smith
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Prof. Chris Whitty
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