



**Caroline Russell AM**

**Chair of the Health Committee**

Rt. Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
(sent via email)

17 September 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

Earlier this week, you set out the UK Government's Autumn and Winter Plan that outlines measures that will be taken to help protect people from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

I would be grateful if you would meet with me to discuss the Winter Plan, the impact of this new approach to COVID-19, and how we can work together to improve the health and wellbeing of Londoners.

As you pointed out in your first speech as Health and Social Care Secretary on 28 June, the next phase of dealing with the pandemic is a 'critical time for the country' and we 'must all work together' to ensure strategies to curb COVID-19 cases across the country are successful.

I agree with those sentiments; working together is critical to ensuring that Londoners receive coordinated and clear public health messaging. Therefore, the London Assembly must be able to engage with you to ensure there will be joined-up messaging that will provide the highest rates of compliance with the new Autumn/Winter COVID-19 Plan.

I would also like to note that I previously wrote to you on 15 July relating to the Health Committee's investigation into the ongoing threat of COVID-19 in London. Unfortunately, I am yet to receive a response.

Our key findings and recommendations of that investigation focused on several areas, including:

- Winter booster jab programme;
- Facemask policies;
- Financial support for those self-isolating;
- Need for improved ventilation and air filtration measures in schools

A copy of that letter is enclosed for your information. I would also be happy to provide you and your officials more details of our investigation, including a transcript of the meeting

Many of the Committee's findings are as pertinent now as they were in the Summer. Indeed, it is even more critical for Londoners to understand the details around the winter vaccine programme, school ventilation strategies, and what support the government is planning to provide for those self-isolating this winter.

I understand this will be a busy time for you; nevertheless, given the importance of this issue, I would be grateful if you would meet with me to discuss the issues raised in this letter and of 15 July.

In the meantime, if you need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me, or the London Assembly Public Affairs Manager, Colin McKinlay, at [colin.mckinlay@london.gov.uk](mailto:colin.mckinlay@london.gov.uk) or 07879333203.

I look forward to your response and meeting with you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Russell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Caroline Russell AM**

**Chair of the Health Committee**