



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN 15576
Date: 4 November 2021

Dear

ATISN 15576

Thank you for your request which I received on 6 October 2021. You asked for the following information:

the number of confirmed Covid reinfections in Wales?

The Office for National Statistics together with academics and the Devolved Administration of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, collect information about Covid-19 reinfections through the Covid Infection Survey (CIS). This survey is carried out across the UK and collects monthly swab and blood tests from participants which are crucial for tracking infection rates and identifying cases of reinfection. It is important to separate reinfections from possible cases of lingering initial infection and this is done using following two methods:

- Prior to a positive test, if the participant has a gap of 120 days between their first positive test and their next negative test, or
- They have completed four negative tests since their first positive test. These checks minimise the risk of incorrectly labelling a continuing infection as a reinfection.

Evidence from the CIS [published in August 2021](#) showed that reinfections are rare across the UK and typically milder than first time infections. There is some evidence to suggest though that the Delta variant has made reinfection more common than it was previously.

In terms of numbers of reinfections the CIS analysis reveals that between April 2020 and August 2021 there were a total of 191 identified reinfections across the UK with 72 having a high viral load. This equates to (in total) 10.9 reinfections per 100,000 participant days at risk as shown in the table below (This means that once participants in the survey had accumulated 100,000 days at risk of reinfection between them, we would expect there to have been around 11 reinfections in that time).

Unweighted estimated rate of COVID-19 reinfection per 100,000 participant days at risk, averaged for entire at-risk period, UK

26 April 2020 to 14 August 2021

Definition	Number of participants at risk	Number of identified reinfections	Estimated rate of reinfections (per 100,000 participant days at risk)	Lower 95% confidence interval	Upper 95% confidence interval
All reinfections definition	19,467	191	10.9	9.4	12.5
Reinfections with Ct less than 30	19,467	72	4.1	3.2	5.2

Source: Office for National Statistics - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

Notes:

1. For the purposes of this analysis, we define reinfection as a new positive test 120 days or more after an initial first positive test which was preceded by at least one negative test, or where an individual has had a subsequent positive test following four consecutive negative tests regardless of the time since the first positive.
2. A confidence interval gives an indication of the degree of uncertainty of an estimate, showing the precision of a sample estimate. The 95% confidence intervals are calculated so that if we repeated the study many times, 95% of the time the true unknown value would lie between the lower and upper confidence limits. A wider interval indicates more uncertainty in the estimate.
3. An individual being classified as "at risk" reflects that it is possible for a positive test of theirs to be considered a reinfection. The "at-risk period" refers to the period following the first time we could have defined a reinfection.
4. All estimates of COVID-19 reinfections in this analysis are unweighted; the sample for this analysis includes only those who have tested positive for COVID-19 on a swab test, and as such there is no known population that estimates could be weighted to be representative of.

Unfortunately this data from the CIS cannot be broken down to give a Wales only figure, this is because of the small numbers involved which could result in the disclosure of confidential information.

Welsh Government does not hold data on reinfections. Public Health Wales have also confirmed that they do not carry out surveillance on reinfections.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,

SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely