



ATISN 15716

21 December 2021

Dear _____,

ATISN 15716 – Infection Control Measures

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 26 November regarding the infection control measures. You requested the following information:

What infection control measures have been introduced against the Covid19 virus in hospitals?

Our response

Welsh Government have worked with NHS Wales and Public Health Wales (PHW) in developing measures and guidance to assist with reducing infection, raising awareness and providing training as required. A list of the guidance for health boards and social care settings to consider are attached in **annex 1** and you can also locate the guidance by using the following link: <https://gov.wales/health-professionals-coronavirus> .

The most significant and recent Welsh Government's publication is '*Operational guide for the transition of healthcare environments in preparation for Autumn/Winter 2021/22 incorporating COVID - 19 Measures.*' A copy of the guidance is available on the website here: <https://gov.wales/preparing-health-care-environments-autumn-and-winter-2021-2022-operational-guidance>

Throughout the pandemic, via membership of the UK Infection Prevention and Control (UK IPC) group, Wales has played and continues to play an active part in the development and continual evaluation of the UK evidence based Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance which may be found at [Infection prevention and control for seasonal respiratory infections in health and care settings \(including SARS-CoV-2\) for winter 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/infection-prevention-and-control-for-seasonal-respiratory-infections-in-health-and-care-settings-including-sars-cov-2-for-winter-2021-to-2022).

It is important to note that health and social care providers in Wales have consistently followed the UK IPC guidelines and much of Welsh Government action has been to endorse and reiterate the use of this guidance.

Next Steps

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,

Guidance

Date	Title	Link / Document
2/6/20	'A Principles Framework to assist the NHS in Wales to return urgent and planned services in hospital settings during COVID-19'.	Operating framework for urgent and planned services in hospital settings during COVID-19 (wales.nhs.uk)  Doc 1.pdf
3/6/20	'Operational guide for the safe return of healthcare environments to routine arrangements following the initial COVID-19 response'.	https://nwssp.nhs.wales/ourservices/specialist-estates-services/specialist-estates-services-documents/other-estates-related-guidance/operational-guide-for-the-safe-return-of-healthcare-environments-to-routine-arrangements-following-the-initial-covid-19-response-pdf/  Doc 2.pdf
26/6/20	Letter from Chief Executive NHS Wales 'COVID-19 guidance for bed spacing in healthcare settings' gives direction on bed spacing, social / physical distancing in hospital settings, use of screens, environmental decontamination and the use of fans.	 Doc 3.pdf
2/9/20	CMO / CNO cover letter for revised UK IP&C guidance 'Infection Prevention & Control Revised Guidance 2020' (2nd September 2020).	 Doc 4.pdf
28/9/20	Letter from Chief Executive NHS Wales 'COVID-19: Mandatory wearing of face coverings in shops and other indoor public spaces in Wales'	 Doc 5.pdf
2/11/20	PHW guidance – 'Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in social care settings (care homes and domiciliary care) in Wales'	<i>All PHW guidance for health and care professionals may be found here.</i>

<p>6/11/20</p>	<p>‘A position statement from the Nosocomial Transmission Group’ was issued under CNO/DCMO signatures with 7 other documents including:</p> <p>‘NHS Wales Welsh Partnership Forum Joint Statement on protecting colleagues, patients and ourselves during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic’;</p>	 <p>Doc 6.pdf</p>
<p>11/12/20</p>	<p>Letter from Chief Executive NHS Wales ‘Actions required to reduce the risk of nosocomial transmission of Covid-19: The physical environment’ and 3 documents:</p>	 <p>Doc 7.pdf</p> <p>‘COVID-19 Addendum Key Standards for Environmental Cleanliness’</p> <p>https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/information-for-health-and-social-care/addendum-key-standards-for-environmental-cleanliness/</p> <p>‘Specialist Estates Services Notification 20/23 COVID 19 and mitigating airborne transmission in healthcare settings’</p> <p>https://nwssp.nhs.wales/ourservices/specialist-estates-services/specialist-estates-services-documents/specialist-estates-services-notifications-sesns/sesn-21-16-covid-19-and-mitigating-airborne-transmission-in-healthcare-settings-ventilation-guidance-updates/</p> <p>Reissue of Chief Executive NHS Wales letter ‘COVID-19 Guidance for Bed-Spacing in Healthcare Settings’</p>  <p>Doc 8.pdf</p>
<p>03/2021</p>	<p>Framework for COVID-19 testing for hospital patients in Wales: March 2021</p>	<p>42350 Community testing framework English (gov.wales)</p>
<p>04/2021</p>	<p>COVID-19 workplace testing framework</p>	<p>COVID-19 workplace testing framework [HTML] GOV.WALES</p>

08/06/21	CNO/DCMO cover letter for updated UK IPC guidance 'COVID-19: Guidance for maintaining services within health and care settings Infection prevention and control recommendations Version 1.2'	 Doc 9.pdf
18/06/21	Hospital visiting during the coronavirus outbreak guidance: July 2021	Hospital visiting during the coronavirus outbreak guidance: July 2021 [HTML] GOV.WALES
02/07/21	CNO/DCMO letter 'Re: Actions to protect NHS Wales hospitals during a third wave of COVID-19 infection'	 Doc 10.pdf
26/08/21	All Wales Infection Prevention and Control Training, Learning and Development Framework	https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/ipc-framework-final-nbsp/
24/09/21	'Operational guide for the transition of healthcare environments in preparation for Autumn/Winter 2021/22 incorporating COVID - 19 Measures.' issued to HBs and trusts under cover letter from CNO/DCMO.	Preparing health care environments for autumn and winter 2021 to 2022: operational guidance GOV.WALES
17/12/21	Written Statement: Routine testing for health and social care staff	Written Statement: Routine testing for health and social care staff (17 December 2021) GOV.WALES