



WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

Status: Information – statutory duties apply

Category: Legislation / Public Health

Title: Reminder of Statutory Duties under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Regulations (Wales)

Date of Expiry / Review: not applicable

For information:

Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts in Wales
Chief Executives, Health Boards/Trusts
Directors of Public Health, Health Boards/Trusts
Medical Directors, Health Boards/Trusts
Directors of Primary Care, Health Boards/Trusts
Nurse Executive Directors, Health Boards/Trusts
National Director Health Protection and Screening Services/ Executive Medical Director, Public Health Wales
General Practitioner Committee, Wales
General practitioners
Directors of Therapies
Health Science
Private Healthcare Providers

Required by: Immediate

Sender: Dr Keith Reid, Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Public Health), Sioned Rees, Public Health Protection Director, Welsh Government

Welsh Government Contacts:

Health Protection, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ

HealthProtection@gov.wales

Enclosures: Annex 1 and 2.

Purpose

This information is issued as a reminder to NHS organisations in Wales of their statutory duties under the public health notification legislation, and of the role of timely notification in supporting effective health protection action.

Legal Framework

The notification of infectious diseases in Wales is governed by the [Public Health \(Control of Disease\) Act 1984](#) and [the Health Protection \(Notification\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2010](#) (“The 2010 Regulations”), as amended.

The 2010 Regulations place legal duties on registered medical practitioners and diagnostic laboratories to notify specified information relating to notifiable diseases and causative agents. The current list of Notifiable Diseases under the 2010 Regulations are listed in Annex A.

Roles and Responsibilities in Wales

Registered medical practitioners must notify suspected cases of notifiable disease to the Proper Officer of the local authority for the area in which the patient resides, or as otherwise specified in the Regulations¹.

Diagnostic laboratories must notify the Proper Officer of the relevant local authority of specified causative agents identified through diagnostic testing.

In Wales, local authority Proper Officers discharge their functions in close operational partnership with Public Health Wales, which undertakes health protection surveillance, risk assessment, and response on behalf of the NHS in Wales.

Notifications made under the 2010 Regulations are a critical mechanism through which Public Health Wales and local authorities are alerted to potential threats to health, enabling timely investigation, control measures, and population-level protection.

Operational Expectations

Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts are expected to ensure that:

- clinicians and laboratory staff are aware of their statutory notification duties;
- notifications are made promptly using established national and local arrangements;
- local governance and assurance arrangements support compliance with the Regulations; and
- established health protection pathways involving Public Health Wales and local authority Proper Officers are followed.

Action Required

Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts in Wales are asked to:

¹ [The Health Protection \(Notification\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2010](#)

1. Note this reminder of the statutory duties relating to the notification of infectious diseases; and
2. Ensure compliance with the Notification Regulations through appropriate local policies, training, and assurance mechanisms.

Further Information

Further information on notification arrangements and health protection roles in Wales is available through Public Health Wales' [All Wales Acute Response Service \(AWARe\)](#) team and local authority health protection teams.

Current list of Notifiable Diseases under [the Health Protection \(Notification\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2010 \(“The 2010 Regulations”\)](#), as amended.²

Anthrax
Botulism
Brucellosis
Cholera
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
Diphtheria
Encephalitis (acute)
Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)
Food poisoning
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)
Infectious bloody diarrhoea
Infectious hepatitis (acute)
Invasive group A streptococcal disease and scarlet fever
Legionnaires' Disease
Leprosy
Malaria
Measles
Meningitis (acute)
Meningococcal septicaemia
Monkeypox
Mumps
Plague
Poliomyelitis (acute)
Rabies
Rubella
SARS
Smallpox
Tetanus
Tuberculosis
Typhus
Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)
Whooping cough
Yellow fever

² [The Health Protection \(Notification\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2010](#)