



Our ref: WQ82967, WQ82968, WQ82969, WQ82970, WQ82971

Russell George MS
Senedd Member for Montgomeryshire

Russell.George@senedd.wales

30 July 2021

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your recent Written Questions asking me to:

- provide a timeline for the commencement and completion of individual investigations into deaths arising from hospital-acquired COVID-19 as outlined in Plenary on 7 July 2021.
- provide a breakdown of deaths from hospital-acquired COVID-19 which have already been investigated by health boards.
- outline the strict guidelines to health boards on hospital infections mentioned in Plenary on 7 July 2021, along with the dates they were issued to health boards in 2020 and 2021.
- confirm whether there is complete data available on Public Health Wales's dashboard, broken down by health board, on COVID-19 transmissions in hospitals?
- outline NHS Wales's framework for reviewing incidents related to COVID-19 transmissions in hospitals, and how local health boards are applying this, as outlined in Plenary on 14 July?

'Putting Things Right' guidance establishes the responsibilities of health boards and trusts to investigate and improve practice in relation to all incidents of harm that are greater than a minimal level, which occur as a result of healthcare. This could potentially apply to nosocomial infections which will need to be investigated.

The NHS Wales Delivery Unit has worked with NHS Wales organisations to develop and implement the 'NHS Wales National Framework for Management of Patient Safety Incidents following Nosocomial Transmission of Covid-19' to review nosocomial deaths and harms experienced during the pandemic.

Investigations under this framework and the Putting Things Right (PTR) guidance are the responsibility of individual NHS organisations and reporting back on cases to health boards and NHS trusts Boards will occur via their quality and internal governance processes. Welsh Government will have no oversight of this process.

I am pleased to confirm that 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 guidance. Wales, like all UK countries, has adhered to this guidance and will continue to do so.

Updates to the guidance, such as that of 1 June 2021, have been endorsed by senior leadership in Welsh Government and the Nosocomial Transmission Group (NTG), chaired by the Chief Nursing Officer and Deputy Chief Medical Officer, has also issued a comprehensive set of guidance on prevention of hospital transmission of COVID-19. The updated UK IPC guidance may be found [here](#).

I can confirm that, commencing on 1 March 2020, the Public Health Wales Tableau database has presented complete data, broken down by health board on COVID-19 transmission in hospitals as defined by nationally agreed criteria.

We have been entirely transparent on the numbers of nosocomial cases of COVID-19 in Wales through presentation of this data on this public facing Public Health Wales database and are the only nation to have updated this information on a weekly basis.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services