



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ82559, WQ82560 and WQ82561

Andrew RT Davies MS  
Senedd Regional Member for South Wales Central

[AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales](mailto:AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales)

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Dear Andrew

I write further to the questions you have raised on action and guidance linked to ventilation in NHS estates (*WQ82559, WQ82560 and WQ82561*). The response to your questions is set out below.

Guidance on ventilation in healthcare settings including the use of associated technology is set out in *HTM03-01 Specialist ventilation for healthcare premises*. In addition, the Welsh Government's Nosocomial Transmission Group in conjunction with NWSSP- Specialist Estates Services has provided updated guidance on ventilation in general hospital areas in Wales under cover of a Special Estates Services Notification "*SESN 20-23 - Covid 19 and mitigating airborne transmission in healthcare settings*". This includes guidance and limitations on the use of air purifiers. The link below provides the Specialist Estates Services Notification (SESN).

<https://nwssp.nhs.wales/ourservices/specialist-estates-services/specialist-estates-services-documents/specialist-estates-services-notifications-sesns/sesn-20-23-covid-19-and-mitigating-airborne-transmission-in-healthcare-settings/>

This guidance is to inform NHS Wales organisations of the suite of estates and facilities documents released to date to be considered in respect of ventilation in areas where Covid-19 patients may be present.

In addition, Health Boards and Trusts have Ventilation Safety Groups in place comprising of specialists from estates, clinical leads, Infection Prevention and Control and the Authorising Engineer advising on and monitoring the safe management of the ventilation systems in the healthcare environment.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Various initiatives have been taken across the health board estate improving ventilation in high risk areas where Covid patients may be treated. These include the installation of additional equipment such as heat recovery ventilation plant, air purifiers (HEPA) etc, following discussions and approval with the Ventilation Safety Groups.

Future work-streams are planned with NHS Improvement/England and the rest of the UK NHS (including representatives from SAGE) around air purifiers, to validate their effectiveness before recommending their wide scale use within the healthcare environment.

I trust the above information is 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