

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ89371

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Aberconwy

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31 October 2023

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your recent written question asking me to confirm the number of patients currently suffering from the latest COVID variant in all hospitals in Wales.

The BA.2.86 COVID-19 variant continues to transmit within the UK, with sporadic cases identified in most regions. Four cases have been detected in Wales through genomic sequencing as of 17th October 2023. Of these, two were community detected (in care homes), one was hospital acquired and in the other case the hospitalisation status is unknown.

Available data indicates that BA.2.86 is no more likely to evade existing antibodies than XBB.1.5 or EG.1.5, other variants that have been circulating widely in the UK in recent weeks. There is currently no evidence to suggest that BA.2.86 infection is more likely to make people seriously ill than currently circulating variants, while vaccination is likely to provide continued protection.

Yours sincerely

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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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.