

COVID-19 Information for Healthcare Workers in WALES

The UK response to the COVID-19 incident has been agreed between the four country CMOs and guidance has been developed jointly with input from Public Health Wales. The guidance provided or linked from this document is the guidance that should be followed in Wales.

COVID-19, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus was first described in Wuhan City, China in December 2019. The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the WHO on the 30th January 2020. The UK launched its [Coronavirus action plan](#) on the 3rd March, initially aiming for containment of the virus through isolation of suspected cases, testing and contact tracing. Suspected cases were identified through their travel history to listed countries already affected by the virus. On the 11th March, the WHO characterised the outbreak as a pandemic. A change in case definition and testing focus followed on 13th March in the UK, whereby patients requiring overnight stays in hospital with pneumonia, acute respiratory distress or influenza-like illness were defined as possible COVID-19 cases and tested for the virus.

Management of cases: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-initial-investigation-of-possible-cases>

Note that as of 19th March 2020 COVID-19 is no longer considered to be a high consequence infectious diseases (HCID) in the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/high-consequence-infectious-diseases-hcid>

The 4 nations public health HCID group made an interim recommendation in January 2020 to classify COVID-19 as an HCID. This was based on consideration of the UK HCID criteria about

the virus and the disease with information available during the early stages of the outbreak. Now that more is known about COVID-19, the public health bodies in the UK have reviewed the most up to date information about COVID-19 against the UK HCID criteria. They have determined that several features have now changed; in particular, more information is available about mortality rates (low overall), and there is now greater clinical awareness and a specific and sensitive laboratory test, the availability of which continues to increase.

The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) is also of the opinion that COVID-19 should no longer be classified as an HCID.

Infection Prevention and Control including guidance on use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>

Relevant Health and Safety Executive Guidance on Respiratory Protection:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/respiratory-protective-equipment/>

Guidance video from 3M Personal Safety UK on how to carry out a Qualitative

Fit Test: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PthSES4O9d8>

Rapid Review of the literature: Assessing the infection prevention and control measures for the prevention and management of COVID-19 in

healthcare settings: <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/rapid-review-of-the-literature-assessing-the-infection-prevention-and-control-measures-for-the-prevention-and-management-of-covid-19-in-healthcare-settings/>

What is the efficacy of standard surgical face masks compared to respirator masks in preventing COVID-type illnesses in clinical staff?

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/20.3.20-COVID-CAT-PPE-with-paper.pdf>

Guidance for Healthcare Providers who have diagnosed a case of COVID-19 within their facility:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-healthcare-providers-who-have-diagnosed-a-case-within-their-facility>

Primary Care: See attached PDF - (COVID-19) INTERIM Guidance for Primary Care, Management of patients presenting to primary care, Version 1.2 PHW

Also: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wn-cov-guidance-for-primary-care>

General Guidance for Healthcare Professionals:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

Additional Supporting Guidance for Primary and Social Care:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/>