



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 15493

30 September 2021

Dear

ATISN 15493 – COVID-19

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 29 August. I have interpreted your request as follows:

- 1. What is the significance of the current rise in COVID-19 cases?*
- 2. How many people have tested positive with COVID-19 and reported –*
No symptoms
Very mild symptoms
Only moderate symptoms
Severe symptoms
- 3. How many people have died as a result of solely COVID-19 and nothing else?*
- 4. How many people have died of non–COVID related difficulties but have been recorded as a COVID death due to a positive COVID test?*
- 5. How many people are in hospitals with COVID-19?*
- 6. When will we get rid of the need to wear face coverings, especially in shops?*

Our response:

1. The Welsh Government does not hold this information, we have queried with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) who would be best placed to answer this and they have advised you submit an FOI to them for the data they you are interested in so that they would be able to answer this request in full. The link for making an FOI request to ONS can be found here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi>

2. The Welsh Government does not hold information on the number of people who have tested positive with COVID-19 and have reported – no symptoms, very mild symptoms, only moderate symptoms or severe symptoms.

Public Health Wales do publish information on the number of people who have tested positive with COVID-19 on their rapid COVID-19 surveillance dashboard ([Rapid COVID-19 virology - Public | Tableau Public](#)) which is updated 6 days a week (Sunday to Friday) at 12pm. The cases and testing data on this dashboard only includes PCR tests, apart from the specific tab for the lateral flow testing table and report. Current testing policy in Wales is to follow a positive lateral flow test with a PCR test, which will then be included in the PCR results.

3. The Welsh Government does not hold this information. The ONS collect and produce mortality statistics for England and Wales based on information from the death registration process. The ONS publish quarterly [information](#) on the number of pre-existing conditions mentioned on the death certificate of deaths due to COVID-19 (i.e. deaths where COVID-19 was an underlying cause of death). For further information on this data, please contact the ONS at health.data@ons.gov.uk
4. The Welsh Government does not hold this information. The mortality statistics produced by the ONS are based on information recorded when deaths are certified and registered. Deaths registered in England and Wales are certified by a medical practitioner, using the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD). Within this process [guidance](#) is provided to medical practitioners on how to certify the causes of a death to the best of their knowledge and belief. The medical practitioners certifying a death can list all causes in the chain of events that led to the death and pre-existing conditions that may have contributed to the death. When certifying the involvement of COVID-19 a positive test result is not required. For further information on this data, please contact the ONS at health.data@ons.gov.uk.
5. Data on the number of people in hospital with COVID-19 is published on the Welsh Government StatsWales website which is updated with the latest available data at 12pm daily (Monday to Friday) and can be found in the following [link](#). Hospitalisations for COVID-19 are further subdivided into 3 categories, (a) hospitalisations for COVID-19-confirmed, (b) hospitalisations for COVID-19 – suspected and (c) hospitalisations for COVID-19 – recovering.
- 6 We have published our approach to escalation and de-escalation of restrictions in the Coronavirus Control Plan. The most recent update was published on 14 July and is available [here](#): This includes a section on the Welsh Government's approach to face coverings.

Next Steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,

CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

*Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF*

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,