

Doc 05

From: Redacted s40(2) (HSS - Office of the Chief Nursing Officer)

Sent: 23 March 2022 19:16

To: Redacted s40(2) (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24)

Subject: FW: PPE briefing

Hi Redacted s40(2)

As promised see response from Redacted s40(2) to both Redacted s40(2) and myself. I am sharing so that CNOs can have a position back to the cell to ensure that every country's NIPCM reflects the routes of transmission accurately.

BW

Redacted s40(2)

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Swyddfa'r Prif Swyddog Nyrsio | Office of the Chief Nursing Officer

Cyfarwyddiaeth Nyrsio | Nursing Directorate

Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government

e-bost | e-mail: Redacted s40(2)

Ffôn | Phone: Redacted s40(2)

From: Redacted s40(2) (Public Health Wales - Microbiology)

Sent: 23 March 2022 15:34

To: Redacted s40(2) (TAC - Technical Advisory Cell); Redacted s40(2); Redacted s40(2) (HSS - Office of the Chief Nursing Officer); Redacted s40(2) (HSS - Primary Care & Health Science)

Cc: Redacted s40(2) (HSS - DPH - Population Healthcare); Redacted s40(2) (TAC - Technical Advisory Cell); Redacted s40(2) (HSS - Planning Team); HSSG.TAC

Subject: RE: PPE briefing

Thanks Redacted s40(2),

And thanks for the helpful conversation also.

An update in relation to further discussions between HSE and NHSE&I colleagues this morning.

HSE's position regarding the modes of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 has not changed.

The recommendations for PPE in relation to SARS CoV-2 management has not changed in either the current UK IPC Guidance (updated with clarifications 15th March) or in the NIPCM.

[COVID-19: infection prevention and control \(IPC\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control)

This all relates to differing interpretations of words used in IPC guidance and then comparing and contrasting these with other words used elsewhere in official documents/websites.

We are all agreed that the reality is that virus transmission via the air is a continuum of possibilities including large particles (droplets) and small particles (aerosols). The longer someone spends in close proximity to an infectious person in a poorly ventilated setting, the greater the risk of virus transmission (via large and/or small particles). UK IPC Guidance and NIPCM guidance remains in line with WHO recommendations.

Suggested way forward for the NIPCM publication in England – shared in confidence:

- Ideally use terminology in our guidance that is consistent with (same as / similar to) that used by WHO.
- Be clear about use of risk assessments (hierarchy of controls).
- Be clear about empowering staff to be able to use enhanced RPE following application of the above.
- As always, educate, educate, educate HCWs.

We will also take the issue forward through our 4-Nations NIPCM discussions, which we are moving to as we aim to develop our wider IPC collaborations beyond COVID specific issues.

Happy to meet / discuss further if that would be helpful,

Conscious that e-mail not always the best way to clarify / answer all the questions.

With best wishes,

Redacted s40(2)

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Redacted s40(2)

Symudol/Mobile: Redacted s40(2)

Epost/Email: Redacted s40(2)

The issue is present in the Welsh Guidance as highlighted below:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/nipcd>. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. Below the browser window, a navigation bar contains links: Home, Topics, Working for Us, Data, News, Services and Teams (highlighted), Publications, and About. The main content area has a light blue background and contains the following text:

Disease : Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) (SARS Cov-2)

On the Mandatory NHSScotland Alert organism/Condition list : Yes

Notifiable

- Notifiable under Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008 : Yes
- The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) took the decision on 13th March 2020 that COVID-19 infection should NOT be classified as a HCID.

Main route of transmission : Droplet

Guidance and supporting materials

Scottish

Guidance and supporting materials

- See [HPS coronavirus \(COVID-19\) webpage](#) for all guidance and information to be used in Scotland.

And here:

Droplet

A small drop of moisture, larger than airborne particle, that may contain infectious agents. Droplets can be released when a person talks, coughs or sneezes, and during some medical or patient care procedures such as open suctioning and cough induction by chest physiotherapy. It is thought that droplets can travel around 1 metre (3 feet).

Droplet transmission

The spread of infection from one person to another by droplets containing infectious agents.