

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1138
Ein cyf/Our ref JM/00221/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

10 March 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 25 January to the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding weekly testing of staff caring for people with complex medical needs. This has been passed to me for a response as the issues you raise fall within my area of responsibility.

Protecting our NHS and our most vulnerable citizens in Wales remains at the heart of our Covid-19 response, and one of the priorities of our testing strategy is to enable health and social care workers to continue providing care to people in hospitals and primary care and community care settings.

On 4 December, the Minister for Health and Social Services made an announcement regarding testing for those frontline health and social care staff not currently part of a regular testing programme. The programme as a whole was initially subject to a 'pathfinder' pilot to help enable us to develop solutions for some of the barriers to its implementation, but roll-out of regular testing of all patient/public facing health and social care staff has now commenced. I have provided a link to the announcement below for ease of reference.

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-covid-19-testing-health-and-social-care-workers-and-hospice-staff>

Health and social care staff will be tested twice weekly – every three to four days – using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs). These tests detect the presence of the Covid-19 viral antigen from a swab sample and can produce results within 30 minutes allowing for positive individuals to be identified and isolated much more quickly than through the PCR testing process which involves sending the swab sample to a laboratory.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

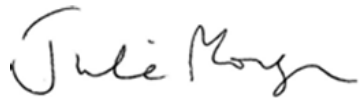
Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

I very much hope that the programme will help to reduce infection rates in our communities, protect people at higher risk of infection and find people who are infectious but who don't have symptoms.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Morgan', written in a cursive style.

Julie Morgan AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services