



Elin Jones MS  
Llywydd  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1SN

30 December 2021

Dear Elin,

**The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 5) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 26) Regulations 2021**

I have today made these Regulations under sections 45C(1) and (3)(c) and 45P(2) of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. I intend to lay these and an accompanying Explanatory Memorandum once the statutory instrument has been registered.

In accordance with section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946 I am notifying you that this statutory instrument will come into force on 31 December 2021, less than 21 days after it has been laid. A copy of the statutory instrument and the Explanatory Memorandum that accompanies it are attached for your information.

These Regulations amend the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 5) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the principal Regulations”).

The Regulations come into force at the beginning of the day on 31 December, within 21 days of their laying. Not adhering to the 21-day convention allows these Regulations to come into force at the earliest opportunity.

Before their amendment by these Regulations, regulations 6 and 7 of the principal Regulations provided that persons testing positive for coronavirus were required to self-isolate for a 10-day period.

These Regulations amend the principal Regulations to now provide that persons testing positive for coronavirus are now required to self-isolate for a 7-day period (rather than a 10-day period). The Regulations also provide that where a person comes within this category but was under a requirement to isolate immediately before the start of the day on 31 December 2021 as a result of having a notification to self-isolate following a positive COVID-19 test result, the isolation period ends in accordance with regulation 6 or 7 of the principal Regulations as amended by these Regulations.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

The amendments are required to respond to the evidence that has been presented by UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) Public Health Advice, Guidance and Expertise (PHAGE) group to the four Chief Medical Officers regarding the duration of self-isolation period for COVID-19 cases and the potential to reduce this period with support from repeat testing with Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs). It also recognises the rapidly rising number of cases and the staffing issues that are being felt across essential public services. Reducing the isolation period to 7 days alongside the advised use of Lateral Flow Tests, based on modelling, offers minimal increased risk of infectious individuals being released from isolation balanced against societal benefits from reducing the isolation period and the potential for the policy to increase compliance with isolation.

Not adhering with the 21-day convention allows the Regulations to come into force at the earliest opportunity to ensure that individuals are being asked to isolate in accordance with public health advice and not longer than needed which will help mitigate the impact of protracted staff absences on essential public services in Wales; and align our position in Wales with that of the UK Government to reduce any cross-border issues or confusion.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Siwan Davies, Director of Senedd Business, Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**MARK DRAKEFORD**