



GIG
CYMRU
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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

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Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.264.26

17 July 2026

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information which was received on 01 July 2026, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does hold the information that you require. For ease of reference your request is set out below and the Health Board's response follows each question individually.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request and Powys Response (Bold):

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information. Would please let me have:

Q1. Your definition of an active case of influenza. - **Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not hold or apply a separate local definition of an "active case" of influenza. For clinical and public health purposes, the Health Board relies on national guidance and definitions issued by the Chief Medical Officer for Wales. Please find enclosed FOI.264.26 Attachment 1 - CMO Alert.**

Public Health Wales is a Statutory body responsible for reporting and surveillance of communicable disease in Wales. Public Health Wales uses GP Sentinel Surveillance of Infections Scheme, which uses a rate per 100,000 [Weekly influenza and acute respiratory infection report - Public Health Wales](#).

The influenza-like illness (ILI) case definition used in Wales is:

(i) Oral or tympanic temperature of at least 37.8°C, and acute onset of at least one of the following respiratory symptoms:

- **cough (with or without sputum)**
- **sore throat**
- **coryza (nasal discharge or congestion)**
- **dyspnoea (shortness of breath)**

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- hoarseness
- sneezing
- wheezing

OR

(ii) An acute deterioration in physical or mental ability without other known cause.

Q2. The methods used to confirm an influenza case and distinguish it from other viral acute respiratory infections. - **Influenza diagnosis is confirmed by laboratory testing of a respiratory specimen, preferably using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. Public Health Wales uses multiplex respiratory PCR panels, which can identify influenza A and B and distinguish influenza from other respiratory viruses including SARS-CoV-2, RSV, rhinovirus, adenovirus, parainfluenza viruses and human metapneumovirus. [phw.nhs.wales]**

The CMO for Wales has noted that clinical diagnosis of influenza is challenging because its presentation is similar to other respiratory viral infections; therefore, virological testing should be considered to guide case management and outbreak response.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling or response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Should you wish an internal review, please quote the reference number and send your correspondence to the above address.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Address: Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH.

Telephone: 0330 414 6421

Complaints Portal: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Web site: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Re-use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Health Board in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Health Board will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however, the Health Board reserves the right, in certain circumstances to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information including a sample license terms and fees can be found at Open Government Licence.

Yours sincerely



Mererid Bowley
Executive Director of Public Health

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb y fath ohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will reply to such correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to a delay.