

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_397_21

Thank you for your request for information received on the 20 September 2021, regarding contingency planning and updated contingency framework for schools during Covid-19 outbreak. Please find the response from Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board set out below:

You asked:

Could you provide a copy of the written advice that Public Health Wales and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board have provided to schools on:

- Local outbreaks, i.e.:
 - Updated information on contingency planning and updated contingency framework.
 - The precise criteria that will be used to decide whether schools are ever to close again in the future.
 - The precise criteria that will be used to decide when schools move a class or year group to home learning.
- The actions school should take to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in their setting.
- Responsibilities of local authorities

Our response:

Thank you for your enquiry and interest in this important aspect of the pandemic control. In respect of your specific requests, we can confirm that the Health Board does not hold the specific information requested. We can however, confirm the following:

- The local Covid-19 infection control decision framework for schools is set by Welsh Government and is available on the following link: [Local COVID-19 infection control decision framework for schools from autumn 2021 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#).
- This Framework provides advice on control measures for school in relation to risk.
- Within Cwm Taf Morgannwg, there is an Educational Settings Group for Covid-19, consisting of representation from all settings from preschools, schools, further and higher education, local educating authority and local public health team to share information guidance, good practice and consistency of approach.
- Locally, there is an operational procedure for sharing information and escalation of specific concerns to the Regional Test Trace and Protect (TTP) Team.
- If there are concerns related to specific schools or cases this can be escalated for further discussion with TTP which includes Environmental Health Officers from each local authority who will provide health protection advice.
- The TTP service will escalate any outbreaks where further Public Health Wales specialist Health Protection Consultant advice is needed, in line with the established procedures in the Outbreak Control Plan for Wales.
- The Outbreak Control Plan set out the duties and responsibilities of different organisations including Local Authorities, Public Health Wales and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

- If appropriate an Incident Management team may be called to investigate further and consider any additional specific control measures that would be needed for the specific circumstances.

As you will appreciate, the circumstances of each outbreak or cluster will vary considerably and some control measures may be unique to certain environments. As such, there are no precise criteria for decisions related to control measures such as closure or home working, but a risk assessment and judgement relating to the specific circumstances.