

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_240_21

You asked:

- 1. Please could you give me the number to deaths whereby Covid is the sole cause of death listed, there were no other pre existing conditions or comorbidities noted on the death certificate, covering the period from March 2020 until present day.**

112 Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board residents, have a recorded date of death between 01/03/2020 – 15/06/2021 from Covid-19 with no co-morbidities.

Please note, the source of the data used for this response is the Office of National Statistics (ONS) data Registered Deaths, supplied to us via NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS). As such, there will be a time lag on the reporting of deaths, as ONS data awaits the official clinical determination of death.

This is the only source of data that we have to be able to determine whether somebody died directly of Covid-19 without any co-morbidities (the figures most commonly cited in the media are the deaths within 28 days of a positive pathology test which is a different metric taken from the Welsh Patient Administrative System (WPAS) /Office of National Statistics (ONS) / Master Patient Index (MPI) systems and combined with Welsh Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) data. MPI is the Master Patient Index. It is a national system used to help multiple national and local systems update their demographics with changes from other systems. (E.g. if a death is recorded in one Health Board's WPAS system then another can be automatically updated with that change). Please note that our WPAS doesn't accept these changes automatically like some other Health Boards.

There were unfortunately other deaths where COVID-19 was listed as a cause of death, but all of these had other causes of death listed as well and so are not applicable to this response.

- 2. If there answer is any, are you able to provide me with the average age of the deceased?**

The average age - 80

- 3. I would also like the number of cycles you run your PCR tests on normally as well as the number of cycles that you are running for PCR tests where the patient/recipient is known to have been vaccinated with one of the available Covid jabs.**

It varies, we have many tests in use. Some tests do not give Ct values and the number of cycles used are set by the manufacturer in the software. We follow the method/manufacture usage instructions that are part of the CE marking for the test.

For clarity, the Ct value of a test where Covid has been detected indicates the detection (or threshold) point for that result. The total number of cycles used by a method is set by the manufacturer and is not altered by the lab.

4. If there is any difference in the number of cycles being used in relation to the patient's vaccination status please could you explain why?

A person's vaccination status is a confidential part of their medical record that the Pathology Department would have no access to view. Even if it was stated on a request form that a person had or had not been vaccinated, it would not change our analytical processes.