

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_313_21

You asked:

I would like to know how many cycles the PCR tests are run on in the Cwm Taf health board weekly from July 2020 to July 2021.

Our response:

This information provided relates to Covid PCR tests that are run in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board hospitals labs.

The number of cycles used by each instrument/method is set by the manufacturer and has NOT changed at any time.

Our Seegene and Cepheid supplied systems cycles 45 times and a positive is considered to be any result that shows a signal below 40 cycles

Our Launch supplied system cycles 40 times and a positive is considered to be any result that shows a signal below 27 cycles. This method has a pre incubation period prior to thermocycling hence the lower CT.

Our BioFire and ePlex cartridge based PCR systems do not produce CT values, they just give results as positive or negative

The threshold for positivity stated relates to the main gene of interest for Covid19.