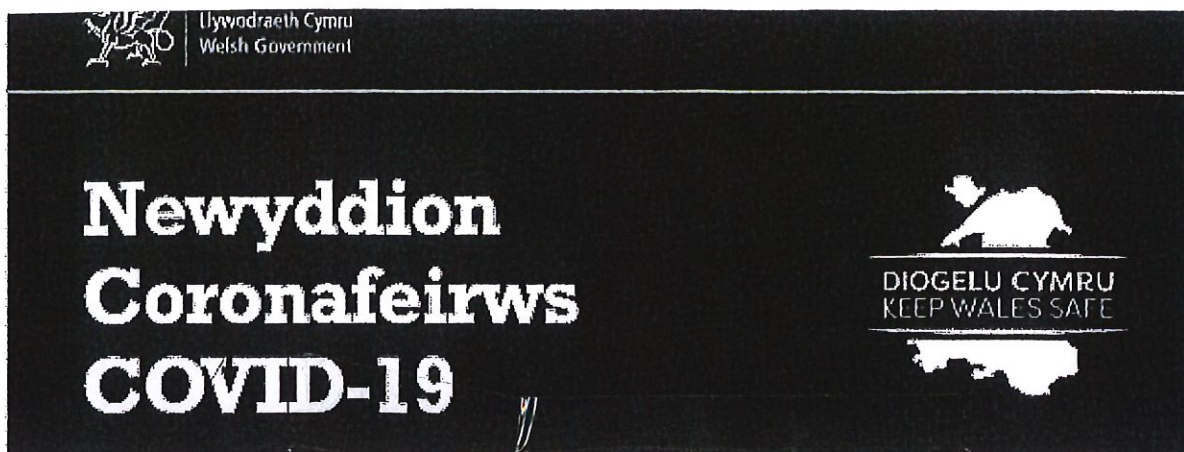


18 December 2020

News Headlines

Higher level restrictions come into force for the coronavirus

First Minister Mark Drakeford has announced that higher level restrictions will come into force to control coronavirus rates, which are increasing rapidly across Wales.

An additional £110 million to help businesses that will feel the effects of the new restrictions

The Welsh Government is setting aside an extra £110 million to help the businesses that will be covered by the four alert level restrictions that will come into effect when shops close on Christmas Eve

Keeping safe over Christmas

Statement by the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments.

Start of pilot scheme to introduce COVID-19 vaccine to care homes

The Health Minister has announced that a pilot scheme to introduce Pfizer/BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine into Welsh care homes will begin, just over a week after the first vaccine was given in the United Kingdom

Welsh Government announces plans for serial testing in schools and colleges from January

The Welsh Government has announced plans to introduce serial testing in schools and colleges from January

Education Minister Kirsty Williams further clarifies the system to replace general qualifications examinations in 2021

Education Minister Kirsty Williams shared further details of the policy direction on how the system to replace general qualifications examinations in 2021 will work.

Welsh business rates freeze for 2021 to 2022

Finance Minister Rebecca Evans has confirmed that business rates in Wales will not be subject to inflationary increases in 2021 to 2022.

New Welsh Government report praises partnership between local authorities and volunteers for responding quickly to COVID-19

Local authorities and the third sector responded quickly to provide support to Wales' most vulnerable and isolated people during the pandemic, according to a just-published report.

'Reach out and ask for help if you have difficulty with your mental health over Christmas' – says Mental Health Minister after meeting Samaritans

People who are struggling with their mental health over the Christmas period need to know that there is help at the other end of the phone. That is the message from the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing Eluned Morgan after she met Samaritans Cymru.

Economic Resilience Fund vital to protect over 470 jobs in Swansea businesses

The Welsh Government's unique Economic Resilience Fund has helped protect over 470 jobs in two Swansea businesses from the economic impacts of the coronavirus.

"The pod will make us part of the community again" – distributing the first 'visiting pods' to Care homes in Wales

The first "visiting pods" providing additional visiting space in care homes have been distributed this week.

Written Statement: Amendment of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (Wales)

Regulations Other News

Disclosure of the

long-term vision for a sustainable farming sector in Wales

A vision for the next 15 to 20 years to create a sustainable agricultural sector for the benefit of future generations was unveiled by the Minister

for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths.

New Export Action Plan vital to Welsh economy

The Welsh Government's new Export Action Plan will deliver the most ambitious and comprehensive programme of export support in Place in Wales.

North and Mid Wales Growth Deal to reach major milestones

The North and Mid Wales Growth Deals are to reach major milestones over the next few days, which will mean that all regions of Wales will be included within a growth deal

Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales, Ken Skates, on latest Labour Market statistics

Important changes to blood donation rules

Wales has taken an important decision to lift the restrictions that prevent LESBIAN, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+) from giving blood.

The Welsh Government welcomes the Advice of the Committee on Climate Change on setting a net zero target for Wales – but "everyone needs to play their part" in responding to the climate crisis and the nature crisis

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has published a progress report for Wales, together with advice on the Wales emissions route to 2050, confirming for the first time that Wales has a credible, viable and affordable route to achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

Encourage the people of Wales to continue with a GREAT recycling effort

this Christmas to help Wales reach number one

As Wales' recycling rates reach record levels, the people of Wales are being encouraged to continue their 'fantastic' recycling efforts this Christmas.

Guidance

Coronavirus regulations: frequently asked questions

Guidelines to protect yourself during the period of the coronavirus and what rules are in place to protect people.

Travellers exempt from Welsh border rules: coronavirus (COVID-19)

To explain who will be exempt from the new Welsh boundary rules introduced as a result of the coronavirus. The rules will apply to travellers to the UK from 8 June 2020.

Coronavirus social distance retention guidelines (COVID-19) for everyone in Wales

Guidance on keeping a social distance for everyone in Wales

Obtain essential food and supplies during a coronavirus pandemic

How can you get essential food and supplies if you are vulnerable, self-isolated or an essential worker.

Higher education: coronavirus

Information on higher education and student support during the coronavirus pandemic.

Guidance for tourism and hospitality businesses: coronavirus

Guidance for tourism and hospitality businesses to keep workers and visitors safe during a coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

Regional coronavirus testing facilities

Wales' testing capacity has been supported by an extensive network of facilities across the country.

Schools: coronavirus guidelines

Changes to learning and teaching in schools from September

Self-isolation support scheme

You could get a payment of £500 to help if you have lost earnings as a result of having to self-isolate and cannot work from home.

Loon for your local authority to apply for a self-isolation payment

You can apply for a payment of £500 from your local authority if you have been told that you should self-isolate and if you cannot work from home.

Impact assessments: coronavirus

Assessments of how our measures to manage COVID-19 affect equality.

Schools: coronavirus guidelines

Changes to learning and teaching in schools from September

Creative industries: guidelines for gradual return

Guidance for coronavirus and safe working in creative industries.

Visits to care homes: guidance for providers

Guidance on how to enable visitors to visit safely during a coronavirus pandemic.

Christmas Advice for People who were Protecting

Form a Christmas bubble if you are extremely vulnerable clinically.

Christmas Advice for sheltered people

Form a Christmas bubble if you are extremely vulnerable clinically.

Christmas Advice for sheltered people

Form a Christmas bubble if you are extremely vulnerable clinically.

Hospital discharge service requirements: COVID-19

Health, social care, third sector and independent partners in Wales must follow this discharge guidance.

Forming a Christmas bubble with friends and family

Guidance on forming a Christmas bubble with friends and family.

Legislation, Technical Advice and Statistics

Coronavirus legislation and guidance on the law

The laws and guidance on these laws were passed in Wales in response to a coronavirus pandemic.

Evidence and data used to inform the limitations of the coronavirus

The evidence the Welsh Government is using to decide how to protect everyone from the coronavirus.

Advice on the coronavirus from the Technical Advice Cell

Information to help ministers respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in a way that is in the best interests of the people of Wales.

Technical Advice Cell: summary of advice 11 December 2020

Summary of coVID-19 advice provided to the Welsh Ministers on 11 December 2020.

Statistics and coronavirus-related research (COVID-19)

Latest data and analysis on the impact of coronavirus on Welsh society.

Promotional Material and Christmas and New Year Message Toolkits

Assets of the new Christmas regulations – easy sharing documents (which can be printed and distributed, or shared on social messaging channels, such as WhatsApp), Easyread and animations, as well as assets from our current public information campaign

Coronavirus information sheet: protecting Wales this winter

How you can help stop the spread of the Coronavirus

Information sheet on the coronavirus: alternative languages

How can you help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

Promotional material Testing, Tracking and Safeguarding

Testing, Tracking and Diogleu promotional material including promotional material for the new NHS COVID-19 app

Business Wales Toolkit

Practical resources to help employers keep their employees safe in the workplace.

COVID-19 risk assessment tool for the workforce

This resource helps you consider your personal risk factors for COVID-19 and recommends how you can stay safe.

NHS COVID-19 App

Do you use the NHS COVID-19 app? The app allows you to report symptoms, order a coronavirus test, and register at locations by scanning a QR code. The app does this while protecting your anonymity. If you have already downloaded the app, be sure to use it - the more people who use the app, the greater our chances of reducing the spread of the virus. The app is an important part of our Testing, Tracking, Protection program.

COVID Symptoms Study

Help us fight coronavirus by reporting on your health on a daily basis, even if you are feeling fine.

You can help the NHS in the fight against the coronavirus by completing a daily health survey on [the COVID Symptoms Study app](#). This app is suitable for everyone, not just for the individuals with symptoms.

The app will help us understand the symptoms and spread of COVID-19. By answering some quick questions, you can help us plan our response to coronavirus.

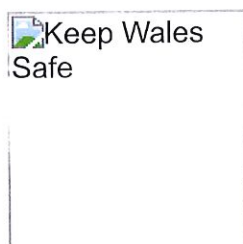
We will not share your answers beyond the NHS and trusted organisations that work directly with the NHS to respond to the

coronavirus.

Testing, tracking and safeguarding

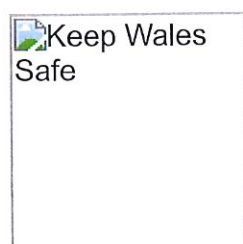
A campaign is underway to raise public and key worker awareness of the Welsh Government's Testing, Tracking and Safeguarding strategy. The latest information on the strategy, including guidance for employers, is on the website. (<https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-coronavirus>). Video material has produced to use in campaigns and for stakeholders to share on its channelling. You can download the digital material here and **would** appreciate it if you would share on your social channels, in order to share information about the Testing, Tracking and Safeguarding strategy.

Information



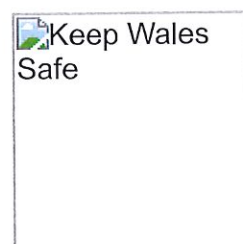
Education and childcare

Guidance on coronavirus for parents, all those working in education and childcare providers



Businesses and employers

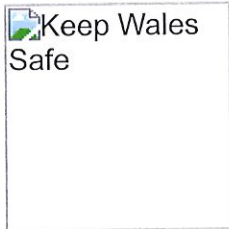
Support to help businesses and third sector organisations affected by the coronavirus



Health advice

Staying at home, self-isolated, supported as an extremely vulnerable person

Health and social care professionals



The coronavirus guidance for the NHS and people working in social, community and residential care



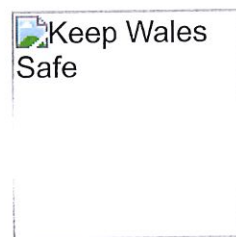
Or

Guidance for landlords, park homes (mobile) and rough sleeping services during the coronavirus pandemic



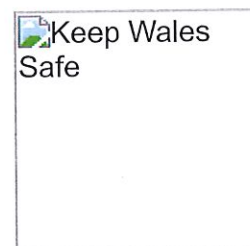
Travel

Advice on the coronavirus for people returning from a foreign country or planning to travel



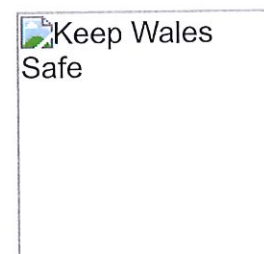
Volunteering (third sector)

Volunteering during the coronavirus pandemic, support for the third sector



Community services

Planning, fire, domestic abuse and sexual violence



Jobs, skills and financial support

Help with benefits, staying in work and getting new skills

Useful links

[Welsh Government](#)

Public Health Wales

Business Wales

Look at each other

Volunteering Wales

AMDANOM NI

A newsletter to provide up-to-date information and advice from the Welsh Government on the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

More information on the web:

gov.wales/coronafeirws

Follow us on Twitter:

[@LlywodraethCym](https://twitter.com/LlywodraethCym)