



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ81283

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17 March 2021

Dear Adam

I am responding to your Written Question: *What was the relative importance of: (a) hospitality settings; (b) hospital-acquired infection; (c) care-home acquired infection; (d) other workplace settings; (e) household-to-household infection; and (f) travel from high-infection areas outside Wales in relation to transmission of COVID-19 in Wales during the last 4 weeks as of 14 October 2020?*

I apologise for the delay in replying to this question.

Understanding the principles of transmission, key risk factors and mitigation measures based on evidence has been outlined in detail in several papers, some of which are referenced below. This information covers the pandemic from its start to the present time.

Papers on general transmission:

In May 2020, the Environment and Modelling Group (EMG) of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) published a paper on the principles of understanding of transmission routes to inform risk assessment and mitigation strategies:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/principles-of-understanding-of-transmission-routes-to-inform-risk-assessment-and-mitigation-strategies-updated-14-may-2020>

A further paper on SARS-COV-2 transmission routes and environments was published by EMG and NERVTAG in October 2020:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sars-cov-2-transmission-routes-and-environments-22-october-2020>

Papers on specific settings / scenarios

Hospitality

Public Health England Transmission Group published a paper on factors contributing to risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in various settings in November 2020:

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-factors-contributing-to-risk-of-sars-cov2-transmission-in-various-settings-26-november-2020>

Hospital-acquired infection

In February 2021, SAGE published a paper, which provides an estimate of hospitalised COVID-19 cases that could have been due to nosocomial transmission. Please be aware that this paper makes some large assumptions about such cases, notably during a period when testing for COVID-19 was often limited.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-and-lshtm-the-contribution-of-nosocomial-infections-to-the-first-wave-28-january-2021>

Care-home acquired infection

The Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Modelling, Operational sub-group (SPI-M-O) published a consensus statement in December 2020:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952707/s0974-spi-m-o-consensus-statement-161220.pdf

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) also published its summary paper, which contains data for Wales: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-12/summary-of-advice-11-december.pdf>

Other workplaces

This category is covered in general terms in the papers mentioned above, however, this category is too broad to assess in detail.

Household-to-household infection:

A paper was prepared by the ethnicity sub-group of SAGE on housing, household transmission and ethnicity was also published in November 2020:

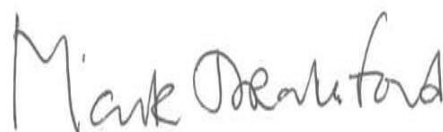
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-household-transmission-and-ethnicity-26-november-2020>.

The EMG and the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Behaviours (SPI-B) also published a paper on mitigating risks of SARS-CoV-2 transmission associated with household social interactions: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emgspi-b-mitigating-risks-of-sars-cov-2-transmission-associated-with-household-social-interactions-26-november-2020>

Travel from high-infection areas:

A scientific paper SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Insights was published in October 2020. This paper demonstrates the spread of infection geographically and supports the case for travel restrictions as a means of controlling the spread of the virus and avoiding seeding events in areas of lower prevalence: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/sars-cov-2-genomic-insights-october-2020.pdf>

Best wishes



MARK DRAKEFORD