



Our ref: WQ86394

James Evans MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Brecon and Radnorshire

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9 November 2022

Dear James

Thank you for your recent written question asking the Welsh Government to outline what the policy will be this winter regarding COVID-19, and if this includes the instruction to stay at home.

The situation regarding respiratory viruses for winter 2022/23 is arguably more unclear than previous years, especially as the pattern of seasonal viruses has been significantly disrupted due to the pandemic. COVID-19 is still mutating with uncertainty around the impact of future variants in terms of transmissibility, immune response and vaccine escape, and severity.

To help prepare our communities and the health and social care systems for what could be a challenging winter we published "[Our Public Health Approach to Respiratory Viruses Autumn/Winter 22/23](#)" on 11 October. This assumes that we are operating in a COVID stable environment, meaning we expect future waves of infection but that we do not expect these to put continued unsustainable pressure on the health and social care system. On this basis, the advice for [people with symptoms of a respiratory infection](#) includes staying at home if you're unwell and limiting contact with others.

We recognise that we may need to act rapidly to respond to changing circumstances. This could include introducing other measures and stronger advice on protective behaviours including, for example, the use of face coverings.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services