

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol**  
**Minister for Health and Social Services**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Our ref: WQ87317

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Senedd Constituency Member for Aberconwy

[Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales](mailto:Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales)

13 March 2023

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your written question that was tabled on 31 January 2023 asking me to state on what date the Welsh Government first became aware that COVID-19 could be asymptomatic. Please accept my apologies for the delay responding to you.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the extent of asymptomatic infections has varied with the onset of different variants of the disease.

Early information on COVID-19 was limited but there were reports of suspected asymptomatic cases in a paper published by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention on 10 February 2020. Records indicate that this paper was shared with the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) between 6 – 11 February 2020 but it was not considered or discussed by SAGE.

Welsh Government received the reference for this paper and was aware of the reports of suspected asymptomatic cases and that COVID-19 could be asymptomatic on 11 February 2020. There however continued to be many uncertainties about COVID-19 at this time; including asymptomatic infection/transmission and routes of transmission. Many of the early assumptions were therefore based on existing respiratory viruses.

Yours sincerely

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**  
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**Minister for Health and Social Services**

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales)

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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.