

# Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

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| <b>FOI Reference:</b>                     | <b>FOI 562</b>                       |
| <b>Date request received</b>              | <b>23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020</b> |
| <b>Date information is due to be sent</b> | <b>25<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>  |

## Information Requested:

Under freedom of information can you please provide the following information:

1. What CT value is being used to ascertain if a PCR is deemed to be 'positive'?
2. Are all people with positive test asked to self isolate?
3. If the answer to 2 is no....When a test is returned positive what CT value has been used to consider telling a person to self isolate.
4. What is the number of reported covid 19 deaths in Wales where covid 19 is given as the sole or primary cause of death? Expressed as a percentage and in actual numbers.

Thank you in anticipation.

## Information provided for the answer:

Public Health Wales holds the following information within the scope of your request:-

1.

The real-time PCR assays in use in Wales for COVID-19 diagnostics all run for 45 cycles however, the cycle number where the sample is defined as RNA NOT DETECTED varies by platform and target gene detected by the system. This is defined by the manufacturer. One platform (Hologic) is isothermal, this means it does not cycle through temperature changes in the same way as the real-time PCR systems, therefore CT values are not reported by this system.

2.&3

This information is publically available on our website and the relevant link is attached for you below.

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

Further information regarding Coronavirus may be available from the Welsh Government website and I attach the relevant link below:-

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

4. This information is publically available from our website and I attach the relevant link below:-

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>

The data that we release via the Covid-19 surveillance dashboard is for rapid reporting purposes and include data of a death in a hospitalised patient or care home resident where COVID-19 has been confirmed with a positive laboratory test and the clinician suspects this was a causative factor in the death. Deaths occurring in other settings or where there was not a confirmed laboratory result are not included, however they are

factored into the statistics reported by the office of National Statistics using data available on completion of the death registration process.

The link to the ONS data can be found here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases>

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision, you should write to the Corporate Complaints Manager, Public Health Wales NHS Trust, 3, Number 2, Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner for Wales

2nd Floor  
Churchill House  
Churchill Way  
Cardiff  
CF10 2HH

Telephone: 029 2067 8400

Email: [wales@ico.org.uk](mailto:wales@ico.org.uk)



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