**Information Requested:**

Q 1 a/ I would like to know how many times the PCR test is being cycled for.

My research informs me that every cycle doubles the amplification. The virus is ever so small. At 18 cycles, anyone testing positive will certainly be likely to infect somebody else but by the time the PCR test is cycled to 35 cycles, it would not be possible to infect somebody, even sharing a small bed in a small unventilated room and being intimate for a few days. RNA found in the tests can be dead and so harmless or it can be potentially infective. The lower the number of cycles that a positive test is found at, the more likely it is that RNA picked up by the test is infectious.

Q1b/ Have the PCR cycles varied over time, in how many times they are cycled.

Q1c/ May the amount of times the test is cycled vary in the future?

Q 2a/ It would be of great helpful interest to know what medical advice and what treatment is being given for those who have tested positive and are showing early symptoms.

Q 2b/ What are the main treatments and recommendations given for those with covid who are at home?

Q 2c/ What are the most common treatments used in hospitals?

I would imagine that this would include nebulizers and oxygen.

Do the nebulizers have H2O2 added to the saline?
Which expectorants and mucolytics are used?

Which drugs are used most commonly?

Obviously, some people may have different treatments, depending on their previous conditions and some of these treatments may be used rarely.

My questions are about the most common treatments for covid and for the common accompanying conditions.

**Information provided for the answer:**

Thank you for your recent request.

Q1 a/ I would like to know how many times the PCR test is being cycled for.

*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.*

Q1b/ Have the PCR cycles varied over time, in how many times they are cycled.

*The cycle numbers have not changed since their first use.*

Q1c/ May the amount of times the test is cycled vary in the future?

*There are no plans to change the tests currently.*

Q 2a/ It would be of great helpful interest to know what medical advice and what treatment is being given for those who have tested positive and are showing early symptoms.


Q 2b/ What are the main treatments and recommendations given for those with covid who are at home?

*As above.*

Q 2c/ What are the most common treatments used in hospitals?

I would imagine that this would include nebulizers and oxygen.

Do the nebulizers have H2O2 added to the saline?

*We do not hold information on hospital treatments. It is possible that this may be held by the local health boards. I have put their contact details below for your further information.*
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