

**Welsh Government  
Health Protection Advisory Group (HPAG)**

**Minutes of the meeting  
17 December 2019 10am – 11.30am  
Cathays Park, Cardiff  
Welsh Government**

**Present:**

Frank Atherton	(Chair)
Jean White	(WG)
Marion Lyons	(WG)
Christianne Glossop	(WG)
Chrishan Kamalan	(WG)
Nathan Barnhouse	(FSA)
Andrew Jones	(PHW)
Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood	(Directors of Nursing)
Matthew Hamar	(HSE)
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">NR</div>	(WLGA)
Michael Evans	(NRW)

**Secretariat:**

Stephen Barry	(WG)
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**Apologies:**

Neil Surman	(WG)
Sarah Aitken	(Directors of Public Health)
Quentin Sandifer	(PHW)
Ceri Davies	(NRW)
Louise Davies	(Directors of Public Protection)

## 1. Introduction and Apologies

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed members to the sixth meeting of the HPAG, noted apologies and also asked the group to introduce themselves.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2019 were reviewed and agreed as a true and accurate record. There actions from the last meeting were discussed and progress was noted:

**Action (A21) – Welsh Government to issue reminder to GPs re. NES for antivirals in care homes.**

## **5. High Consequence Infections (Presentation)**

- 5.1. **ML** gave a presentation setting out the actions necessary and initial learning from the UK response to the recent case of Monkeypox and the returning Lassa fever contacts.
- 5.2. **CMO** acknowledged there were significant questions around the preparedness of NHS Wales to deal with a similar situation and to be able to manage an infected case at one of our acute hospitals for at least 24hrs. It was agreed that whilst a key work stream of strengthening the National Health Protection Service would look at an all-Wales system for dealing with high consequence infections more urgent action was necessary to provide re-assurance.

**Action (A22) – Welsh Government to arrange meeting of key partners in early January to deal with immediate needs for responding to a high consequence infectious disease, such as training needed for new PPE guidance. Communication to then be issued to the NHS setting out central planning underway.**

**Action (A23) – CMO to write to health boards, PHW and WAST requesting their plan/pathway for dealing with a high consequence infectious disease (deadline for response will be 31 March 2020).**

- 5.3. The group discussed the governance arrangements around the NHS providing a response to issues such as high consequence infectious diseases and it was queried whether scrutiny should be taking place via the Health and Care Standards and HIW.

**Action (A24) – Welsh Government to engage with HIW to understand if the scrutiny of NHS performance against the Health and Care Standards covers responding to significant incidents.**

## **6. Update on TB outbreak in Llwynhendy (HPAG-6-P3)**

- 6.1. **AJ** presented a paper on the ongoing response to the TB outbreak in Llwynhendy. It was confirmed that the screening of children recently identified would take place before Christmas whilst the screening for a significant number of adults was being planned for the new year.
- 6.2. It was confirmed that the outbreak was initially treated as a point source but the initial screening undertaken in 2010 did not appear to have identified all contacts and as a result there had been spread within the community. A further meeting with experts from PHE was planned for January prior to the next meeting of the Outbreak Control Team where any further screening/action would be discussed.
- 6.3. **MH** requested that HSE be informed at the earliest opportunity if TB was identified in a workplace.