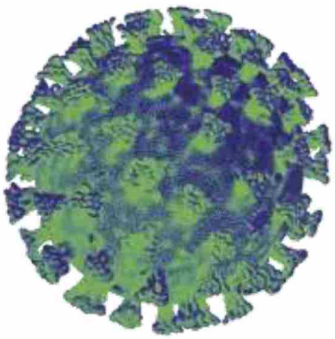
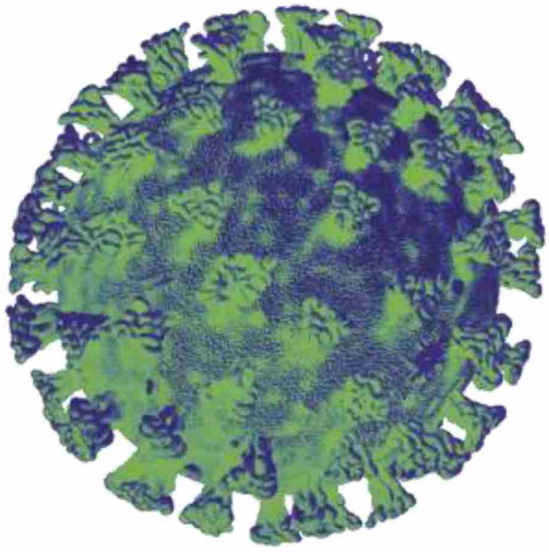
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

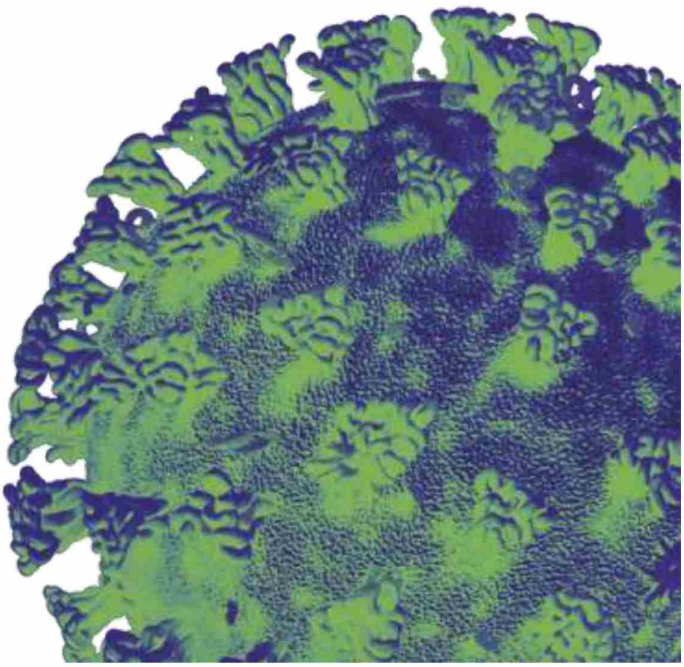
Technical Advisory Cell

Summary of advice

5 May 2020







 WG40655

Welsh Government: Technical Advisory Cell Advice Summary (05/05/2020)

Key Points

- The group has considered new evidence on Transmission of COVID-19 in school children and the treatment Remdesivir.
- Measurements from NHS Wales and the Data Monitor show that the infection is slowly receding in Wales and people are broadly complying with the social distancing regulations.
- There are several potential Vaccines that are considered viable, and Wales is represented on the new UK Vaccines Taskforce.
- There is evidence that Wales now has as many different lineages of the virus as England.

Transmission in Schoolchildren

- Younger children might be less susceptible to infection (low degree of confidence) but are less susceptible to clinical disease (moderate to high degree of confidence) than adults; there is not enough evidence to determine whether this is also the case for older children.
- It is not clear whether transmissibility by children is lower than in adults, but some variable evidence indicates that this may be the case for younger (up to age 11-13) children (low confidence).
- For a variety of reasons reopening options relating to younger children are lower risk than those related to older children.
- Indirect effects of re-opening schools (regardless of which option is taken) are likely to have a greater impact on transmission than schools themselves (e.g. work-related reopening, behaviour changes)
- TAC agrees with SAGE advice that effective measures should be in place to monitor the effects of any change in schools, and to respond to cases within schools.

Research

- There are currently 1199 Welsh patients recruited to COVID-19 urgent public health studies (8 total UPH studies open and recruiting in Wales).

Genomics

- There are as many individual lineages in Wales now as there are in England, so there are more seeding points than there were initially.