

Message

From: Orford, Rob (HSS - Primary Care & Health Science) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7D38A628177A448789839F37A51FAF75-ORFORD, ROB]
Sent: 30/04/2020 12:27:42
To: Hoyle, Robert (ESNR- Science) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=76a4275eef204facb3df396787d3c8eb-Hoyle, Robe]; NR HSS- Primary Care & Health Science) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=56537cd4709745458386b93e9d180b60-NR]; Bennee, Fliss (HSS- Technology, Digital & Transformation Directorate) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed2228a6288d494f8d8a289c9042fd3c-Bennee, Fli]
CC: Daniels, Jo-anne (EPS - Communities & Tackling Poverty) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=163174e55c764cdbbd635d0f3b07473-Daniels, Jo]; Atherton, Frank (HSS - Chief Medical Officer) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7f89dd16eea4492188440f6fb67d90a2-Atherton, F]; Rowlands, Claire (EPS - Curriculum) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=45bd9261c21c405d83ea66e2eb065495-Rowlands, C]; Lyons, Marion (DHSS - DHP - Public Health) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0c95be60def848579bee90f79380a5a9-Lyons, Mari]; Halligan, Peter (ESNR- Science) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ce0b65b71137417482b92f6cada9eed4-HalliganP]
Subject: RE: FM's comments about no value in testing in care homes ?

Rob, all testing policies are keep under review and we are working closely with Scotland, and to some degree England to understand the underpinning evidence (and advice) for blanket testing in care homes. Operationalising a policy such as this is not straightforward, but we do already have policies in place for testing symptomatic care home residents and other residents, social care workers and residents returning from hospital settings. More policy work is in train.

As you know the benefits of testing are for information to be used for action. As more evidence emerges about the virus and interaction between viral load and transmission, as well the role of asymptomatic individuals in transmission, the utility will become clearer. Deaths in care homes are high in part due to the poor outcomes for older adults with COVID-19, and those with other co-morbidities. Striking the balance between an evidence based approach and risk based approach is important when we are dealing with uncertainty and our policies reflect both.

As it stands if you are symptomatic then you should be isolated, if in a care home then test more and assume everyone is a receptor or a vector. Social distancing, isolation of symptomatic individuals, hand washing and sanitation are important public health measures to prevent spread and further infection. Care homes should not wait for a positive test before deploying these measures. As more resources become available to us in Wales we will of course adapt our policies such that we focus on the areas of greatest utility – these policies need to be operationalised on a pan-Wales basis in short order, this is very challenging but it will become easier as more assets and infrastructure comes online. We have been very clear in our approach that it is always about reducing harm first and then for freeing control measures. I've included colleagues who are leading on testing and advising on care homes in case they wish to comment.

Please do raise this matter in TAC and send any international evidence/modelling that you have found on the utility of blanket testing overlaid on the current outbreak management measures that are in place. If there is evidence from the literature or from overseas experience in minimising harm in care homes from serial testing then we should include this in our advice. If you can kindly speak to this tomorrow we will put your name against the agenda item.

Best wishes
Rob

Dr Rob Orford

Prif Gyngorydd Gwyddonol (Iechyd) / Chief Scientific Adviser (Health)

Yr Is-adran Gweithwyr Proffesiynol Perthynol i Iechyd a Gwyddor Gofal Iechyd /

Division for Health Science and Allied Health Professionals

Cyfarwyddiaeth Gofal Sylfaenol a Gwyddoniaeth Iechyd / Directorate of Primary Care & Health Science

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Os hoffech dderbyn ohebiaeth yn yr iaith Gymraeg neu os hoffech dderbyn unrhyw ohebiaeth yn y dyfodol drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, gadewch i mi wybod.

If you wish to receive correspondence in the Welsh language, or you wish any further correspondence to be in the Welsh language, please let me know.



From: Hoyle, Robert (ESNR- Science) <Robert.Hoyle@gov.wales>

Sent: 30 April 2020 11:47

To: Orford, Rob (HSS - Primary Care & Health Science) <Rob.Orford@gov.wales>; **NR** (HSS-Primary Care & Health Science) **NR** @gov.wales>; Bennee, Fliss (HSS-Technology, Digital & Transformation Directorate) <Fliss.Bennee@gov.wales>

Subject: FM's comments about no value in testing in care homes ?

Dear Rob, Fliss **NR**

Peter Halligan is keen to understand the rationale, evidence and advice behind the First Minister's comments last night on the telly that there is no value to testing for CV19 in care homes. Please can you enlighten us. Thanks.

Kind regards,
Robert

Dr. Robert Hoyle

Pennaeth Gwyddoniaeth | Head of Science

Swyddfa Gwyddoniaeth Cymru | Welsh Government Office for Science

Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government

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Os hoffech gysylltu â swyddfa Prif Gyngorydd Gwyddonol Cymru ffoniwch: I&S neu
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If you wish to contact the office of the Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales please ring: I&S or email –
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