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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Health Board Chief Executives
Welsh Ambulance Service Trust Chief Executive

24 January 2020

Dear Colleagues,

High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID) – NHS Wales Preparedness

The emergence of the novel coronavirus in China is a stark reminder of the need for NHS Wales to be prepared to respond to a case or cases of HCID. For further information on HCID, including the UK agreed definition please refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/high-consequence-infectious-diseases-hcid>

Colleagues in the wider UK have already managed a number of confirmed cases of HCID – the most recent being a case of monkeypox in South West England in late 2019. The vast majority of these patients acquired their infections overseas, but rare incidents of secondary transmission have occurred in the UK. Through this experience lessons have been learnt and guidance and advice for the NHS has been updated.

Robust plans need to be in place and rehearsed in Wales to ensure we are able to identify, isolate, test and if necessary care for a patient for a minimum of 24 hours before onward transfer to a specialist treatment centre. The attached checklist is intended to provide me with the necessary assurance on NHS preparedness across Wales. Any risks need to be identified and wherever possible mitigated against with clear actions and timescales. **I expect all health boards and the Welsh Ambulance Service to complete this checklist and submit to healthprotection@gov.wales by Friday 31st January 2020.**

Public Health Wales will be overseeing training and support for HCID management across NHS Wales and will be in contact with your organisations regarding Personal Protective Equipment 'Train the Trainer' sessions.

Ongoing monitoring, support and development will be taken forward through the National Co-ordination Group being established under the programme of investment to strengthen our National Health Protection Service.

Yours sincerely

Personal Data

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