

From: Louise Hough [mailto:PD]
Sent: 04 May 2020 15:17
To: NR (Staff Cymorth yr Aelod | Member Support Staff)
NR @senedd.wales>
Subject: RE: Testing in Care Homes in Wales

Dear NR

Thank you for getting back to me with Lesley's response.

I am aware of Vaughn Gethin's Statement, but as per my original email, evidence is showing that the very elderly can be asymptomatic until they become suddenly very ill, and are then not surviving longer than 48 hrs before they die.

In reality this is how it is ,

1. We ask for a test of a patient showing symptoms, this is taking 36-48 hrs to have anyone arrive to take a swab, by that time the patient is dead, so the swab is wasted and your figures are inaccurate.

2. We have no oxygen on site as this was decided a few years back that we could not keep it on site (not even for emergencies in a Nursing Home, with qualified nurses on duty 24 hours a day) by the Welsh Government/CIW/ LHB's, or whoever makes up these nonsensical ideas, it had to be removed unless prescribed for an individual.

I have tried to get GP's to prescribe it but they give us end of life drugs instead. Relatives would be horrified if they could see how poor their relations are being treated in care homes, but because there is no access ,to visitors they are not witnessing this ,or the fact that they are not being seen at all by a GP no matter what the circumstances are and haven't been seen since 23rd March.

As a patient's oxygen saturation level drops with this disease they are gasping for breath, and we cannot give any oxygen relief at all, and as this is the only treatment for COVID19 this is disgraceful, it is 'on tap' at a hospital so patients in hospital will already receiving better care than what we can give at a care home, but as paramedics do not want to admit from care homes showing any COVID19 symptoms, they are just left with no oxygen relief or any further treatment.

3. Scientists already understand that some people can be asymptomatic of COVID19 therefore any of my staff could be coming to work asymptomatic and shedding this disease in the nursing home, thereby , with the treatment the patients are having, without testing it's virtually a death warrant.

Nine miles down the road , all the staff and residents are being tested, because our Prime Minister has seen the urgency in this and can see the consequences of not testing, but the Welsh Government has decided not to do this , even though there are more(true) deaths happening in the Social sector in Wales than in the NHS .

It is all very well to be working from home ' virtually ' but we are working ' blind ' in the care sector we do not know what we are nursing and what we are taking home to our families.

I do hope , when this is over, this is all thoroughly investigated, because I and many other Managers will be stating what a diabolical shambles this is in Wales, and possibly causing many unnecessary deaths.

As Lesley Griffiths hasn't answered this herself please feel free to pass it Vaughn Gethin and Mark Drakeford

Kind regard
From a very distraught tired nurse feeling helpless,

H L Hough