

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/21/023

### Covid-19 Testing

#### **Request details**

Can you please explain to me why you are testing patients on their deathbed for Covid? Is this the policy of this hospital or are you acting under government instructions?

#### **Response details**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) can confirm that the Testing Plan is undertaken in line with the Public Health Wales Guidance.

<https://gov.wales/covid-19-testing-strategy>

Public Health Wales Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) direct the UHB Community Testing service to undertake testing for its own employed staff and other partner agencies such as Social care, identified groups and independent sector providers.

The Testing service is involved in testing many community groups, care home staff and residents in line with the Testing plan. Care homes would also undertake care home testing on a regular and repeated basis themselves which is included in the Welsh Government Testing Plan. Also patients on admission to Hospital and whilst inpatients would be tested if displaying Covid 19 symptoms so staff can put in place measures to protect patients and staff from further spread of the virus.

Within the community for example if the Testing service is requested to undertake whole home testing by TTP then staff would be deployed to undertake this in an attempt to identify any individuals with the virus and prevent spread of the virus. TTP would provide the home with the necessary advice on managing any patient's identified with the virus. If a patient was identified as actively dying at the time of whole home testing there would not be a requirement to undertake a swab to establish whether the patient had the virus. However, that is a risk-based decision that is made at the time by the nursing staff involved in the care of the patient and also the nurse undertaking the test.