

From: Peter Roderick [<mailto:Peter.Roderick@newcastle.ac.uk>]

Sent: 30 March 2020 17:40

To: Complaints.publichealthwales@wales.nhs.uk; Ward, Alison
<Alison.Ward@torfaen.gov.uk>

Subject: COVID-19 - FAO Tracey Cooper and Alison Ward

FAO:

Tracey Cooper, Chief Executive, Public Health Wales (with apologies for using the 'complaints' email address, this is the only one I could find on the PHW website)
Alison Ward, non-Executive Board Member, Public Health Wales (and Chief Executive, Torfaen County Council)

Annwyl Tracey ac Alison,

Following email exchanges I have had with Caroline Turner, CEO of Powys CC and a couple of Powys County Councillors - I am a native of Machynlleth and have family there still - and following her suggestion, the purpose of this email is to ask Public Health Wales to consider contact tracing when someone in Wales is discovered to have the coronavirus.

I attach an editorial published this afternoon in the British Medical Journal that I have co-authored and which argues for a massive, centrally coordinated, locally based programme of case finding, tracing, clinical observation, and testing, with large teams of people, including volunteers, in line with WHO's advice.

I also paste below a screenshot of WHO's advice in their interim guidance of 22 March. There has been no public explanation for not following WHO's advice, and the sense I have is that it is not considered to be useful or effective at this stage in the epidemic. If this is correct, it seems to me to be misguided – WHO continues to recommend it, Germany is still doing it with 3 times the number of confirmed cases (and many fewer deaths), and even if it might not be effective in London, it does not automatically follow that it would not be effective in, say, Ceredigion.

I look forward to hearing from you – though I appreciate that you will be extremely busy at this unprecedented time, and thank you for everything that you are doing.

Cofion cynnes,

Peter

Screenshot of WHO's interim guidance on 'Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19' (22 March 2020) which includes a Table that "describes the preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19 for each transmission scenario":

Table 1. Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for each transmission scenario for COVID-19

	No Cases	Sporadic Cases	Clusters of Cases	Community Transmission
Transmission scenario	No reported cases	One or more cases, imported or locally acquired.	Most cases of local transmission linked to chains of transmission.	Outbreaks with the inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission for a large number of cases, or by increasing positive tests through sentinel samples (routine systematic testing of respiratory samples from established laboratories).
Aim	Stop transmission and prevent spread.	Stop transmission and prevent spread.	Stop transmission and prevent spread.	Slow transmission, reduce case numbers, end community outbreaks.
Priority areas of work				
Case finding, contact tracing and management	Conduct active case finding , contact tracing and monitoring, quarantine of contacts and isolation of cases.	Enhance active case finding , contact tracing and monitoring, quarantine of contacts and isolation of cases.	Intensify case finding , contact tracing, monitoring, quarantine of contacts , and isolation of cases.	Continue active case finding, continue contact tracing where possible, especially in newly infected areas, quarantine of contacts , and isolation of cases; apply self-initiated isolation for symptomatic individuals.

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/critical-preparedness-readiness-and-response-actions-for-covid-19>