

Reference:	FOI.8153.22
Subject:	Procedures and protocols for disease containment
Date of Request:	4 February 2022

Requested:

Please can you provide me with copies your procedures and protocols for "Disease Containment " for years 2019,2020,2021 and 2022. What amendments were made to the above mentioned documents and who authorised or commissioned the amendments to documents?

Clarified

Please may I have the policies relating to the Disease Containment of infectious diseases, the Policies and procedures for the Containment of Covid-19 and Influenza, for the years 2016, 2017, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021,2022?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that all of its policies have a maximum of a three (3) year review date unless there are fundamental changes during the timeframe. All UHB policies have a group that own and take responsibility for them.

Minor amendments require sign off by the owning group followed by the approving group; whilst significant changes require a full review with the document having to go out for global consultation to all UHB staff before being signed off by the owning group and then the approving group.

In this case, the owning group is the Infection Prevention Strategic Steering Group (IPSSG), chaired by Sharon Daniel, Assistant Director of Nursing. All clinical policies are approved by the Clinical Written Control Documentation Group.

The UHB provides, within the table below, details of the policies and their version control, relating to the disease containment of infectious diseases and the containment of COVID-19 and influenza, during the requested calendar years of 2016 to the current date in 2022. Copies of these have been provided as attachments.

Policy	Details	Number
LOcCOV.075 COVID-19 In-Patient Settings Outbreak Control Process and Management	Version 1 – Approved 5/1/2021	Attachment 1
	Version 2 - Updated and approved at IPSSG January 2022	Section 22 exemption applied
Policy 369 – Infection Prevention & Control of Seasonal Influenza Policy	Version 1 – Approved 25/2/2014	Attachment 2
	Version 2 – Approved 15/2/2017 Three yearly full review process - minor changes only	Attachment 3
	Version 3 – Approved 8/11/2017 Use of FFP3 masks updated to include extubation	Attachment 4

		Version 4 – Approved 24.6.2021 Three yearly full review process – no material changes to the existing policy	Attachment 5
	Policy 353 - Transmission Based Precautions - Information on Contact Airborne and Droplet Precautions Policy	Version 1 – Approved 4/3/2014	Attachment 6
		Version 2 – Approved 4/4/2018 Three yearly review - minor amendments only	Attachment 7
		Version 3 - Currently in development	Section 22
	Policy 354 - Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICP) Policy	Version 1 – Approved 25/2/2014	Attachment 8
		Version 2 – Approved 11/8/2017 Three yearly review - minor amendments only	Attachment 9
		Version 3 – Approved 14/10/2020 Three yearly review – no significant changes only to terminology/COVID reference	Attachment 10

In addition to its own policies, the UHB operates in accordance with all Government COVID-19 Guidance that applies in Wales.

The UHB has applied a Section 22 exemption to two of the documents requested, as the UHB intends to publish these documents in the near future. Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) states that information is exemptable if it is intended that the information held by the public authority will be published at a future date.

This exemption is qualified and therefore, if information falls within Section 22, public authorities must apply a public interest test.

The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in the UHB being open and transparent. The COVID-19 pandemic and contraction of the virus, especially in the case of hospital transmissions is a popular topic of discussion, with a significant amount of public interest. Due to the interest in the topic, it is within everyone's interests that information is shared and that the public be kept informed of developments, to reduce anxieties within our communities.

Against Disclosure: The updated policies are currently under review or recently reviewed and are therefore incomplete. It is the UHB's opinion that providing information before it has been fully reviewed and approved could harm the UHB's relationship with its communities.

Decision: - The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the requested information at this time is greater than the interest in disclosing and is therefore applying a Section 22 exemption of the FoIA. All policies approved are uploaded on the UHB's website.

For ease of reference, please click on the attached link, which will take you directly to the UHB's policies and procedures policy webpage:

[Policies and written control documents - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](#)