

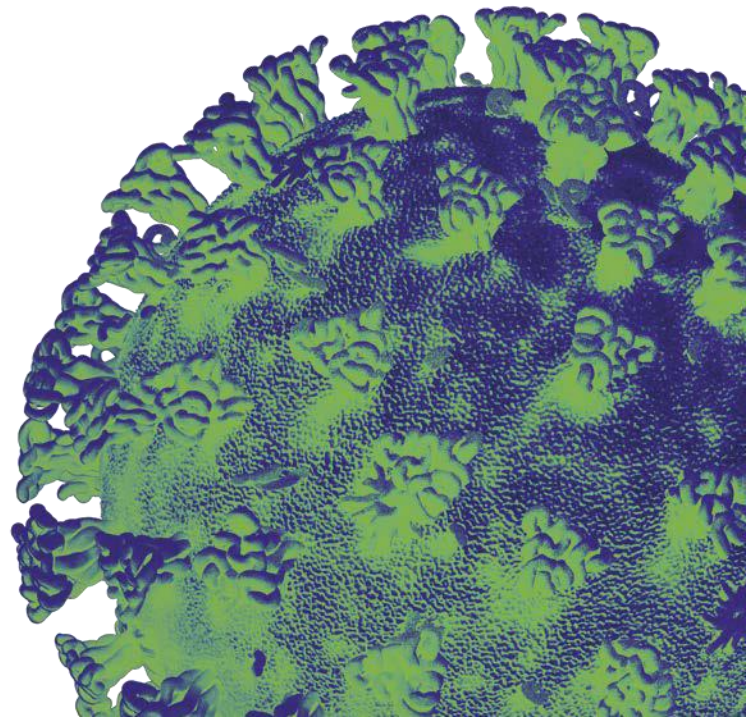
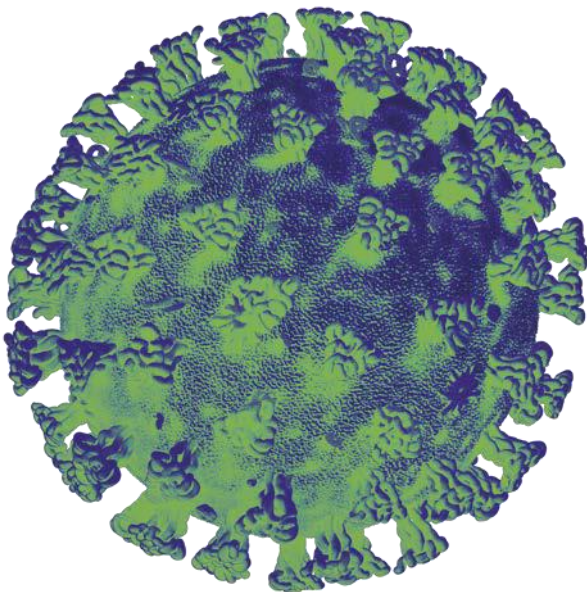
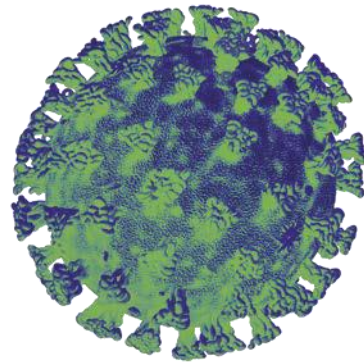


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Technical Advisory Group

Repeat antibody testing of school staff

15 July 2020



Welsh Government COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group

Consensus Statement: Repeat antibody testing of school staff

Background

- There is a policy intention to repeat the antibody testing of school staff. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has been asked for its input on how this should best be undertaken. This statement was drafted by the testing sub-group of TAG and signed-off by TAG on 26th June.

Consensus

- This consensus statement supplements the pre-existing Technical Advisory Group consensus statement on testing for the detection of antibody to the SARS-CoV-2 virus which remains relevant.
- There is value in repeating the antibody testing of school staff for the purpose of understanding historical levels of infection in this cohort over time.
- If undertaken, repeated testing should adopt a 'mixed model' approach, including both the repeat testing of individuals previously tested and the testing of individuals not included in the previous testing round. The former will provide information about both the duration of positivity in previously positive individuals and the rate of seroconversion in individuals that previously tested negative. The latter will provide both new estimates of point prevalence over time and information about changes in prevalence in this cohort over time.
- The current proposal that the first repeat of testing should take place in the latter part of August 2020 is sensible and there is value in this information being available in advance of any widespread return of pupils to schools in September.
- In the event of a widespread return of pupils to schools in September it is suggested that a further repeated round of testing in the latter part of October should be considered.
- Sampling frames will need to be correctly designed and delivered in order to generate robust evidence on which future policy and operational decisions can be based. The details of this design are operational and therefore outside the remit of the Technical Advisory Group.