Nerys Evans AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog dros Iechyd Cyhoeddus ac Ataliol
Deputy Minister for Public and Preventative Health

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: DC/NE/05290/26

Lara Wong
Founder of Clinically Vulnerable Families

12 November 2026

Dear Lara,

Thank you for email of 22 October regarding infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance, and particularly the provisions relating to the wearing of respiratory protective equipment by infectious patients. I would also like to thank you for sharing the open letter which sets out these concerns. As this subject area falls within my ministerial portfolio, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the First Minister.

I recognise the concerns raised by Clinically Vulnerable Families in your email and open letter, particularly regarding the protection of clinically vulnerable people within healthcare settings. I also acknowledge the points you have raised in relation to the findings and recommendations of the UK COVID-19 Inquiry.

The issues you have raised are detailed and technical IPC matters relating primarily to the content and application of the NIPCM. The concerns raised will therefore be addressed through the appropriate existing established IPC channels. I understand this work is already underway involving Welsh Government officials, Public Health Wales and IPC leads in the other UK nations. This provides the appropriate mechanism for considering the issues raised and supporting a coordinated response across the UK.

In view of this ongoing work, I do not believe a ministerial meeting would be the most appropriate route for progressing these matters at this stage. I hope you will understand that this does not diminish the importance of the concerns you have raised, which will be considered through the relevant professional and policy channels.

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Cardiff. CF10 3NQ
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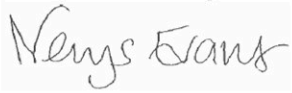
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr iaith honno ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for your continued efforts to improve infection prevention and control arrangements, particularly for clinically vulnerable people and their families.

Yours sincerely,



Nerys Evans AS/MS
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Deputy Minister for Public and Preventative Health