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Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1138
Ein cyf/Our ref JM/00455/21

Clerk, Petitions Committee

Dear Clerk,

28 April 2021

Thank you for your further letter of 29 March regarding weekly testing for staff caring for people with complex medical needs. In responding to your previous letter I did not appreciate that the staff caring for the petitioner's daughter were employed on a private basis. My apologies for that.

You may be aware that the Welsh Government has recently announced the availability of regular testing with Lateral Flow Devices to all those individuals who are unable to work from home - <https://gov.wales/people-wales-who-cannot-work-home-encouraged-use-lateral-flow-self-tests> Tests can be collected from local test sites centres across Wales and are intended to make regular asymptomatic testing for coronavirus more convenient and accessible for people not covered under existing schemes, including those staff caring for the petitioner's daughter.

It is however important we recognise that testing is not a panacea; it has a key role to play within a wider response to the Covid-19 pandemic and has to have a clear specific purpose in order to have the best effect. Scientific advice is clear that robust infection control and management, careful adherence to social distancing and use of PPE remain the most effective way to prevent transmission of the virus.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morgan AS/MS
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Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg 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.