

# Public Health Link

From the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

**From:** Dr Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer for Wales

**Date:** 29 November 2021

**Reference:** CEM/CMO/2021/35

**Category:** Immediate (cascade within 24 hours)

**Title:** Update on Covid-19 Variant B.1.1.529

Dear colleagues,

Data is still emerging on Variant B.1.1.529 but it is currently a significant concern. It is now designated as a Variant of Concern by the World Health Organisation and the UK. The New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (NERVTAG) met on 26/11/2021, this alert provides a summary of what the group discussed alongside the latest advice for the public and healthcare workers.

We also attach a note on Omicron enhanced surveillance for testing laboratories, for your information.

Yours sincerely



**DR FRANK ATHERTON**