

Public Health Link

From the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

Distribution:	As Appendix 1
From:	Dr Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer
Date:	6 August 2018
Reference:	CEM/CMO/2018/4a
Category:	Class 1: Immediate
Title:	The Cyrus Project - Unsolicited Packages
What is this about:	 Full details are set out below.
Why has it been sent:	For your information and to pass on to Colleagues

Issue:

An organisation identifying itself as The Cyrus Project has sent a number of unsolicited packages, with accompanying literature requesting testing.

Please read the attached alert for the precautionary measures you are advised to take if your organisation receives a package.

To: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership to forward to:

All General practitioners - please ensure this message is seen by all practice nurses and non-principals working in your practice and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'.

All Community Pharmacists

Deputising services

HB Chief Pharmacists

HB Prescribing Advisers

Independent/Private clinics and Hospitals and Hospices throughout Wales

Community Optometrists

To: Chief Executives of Health Boards

To: Medical Directors of Health Boards

To: Nurse Directors Health Boards

To: Directors of Public Health

To: Hospital Principals and Chief Pharmacists to action as per alert

cc: Public Health Wales

Consultants in Pharmaceutical Public Health

Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

Principal Pharmacist Welsh Quality Control

Principal Pharmacist Continuing Care Services

Principal Pharmacist Welsh Medicines Information Centre

CSSIW

NHS Direct



Chief Medical Officer Alert

Actions

1. If a package from the 'The Cyrus Project' arrives at your organisation follow the advice below.

**Action required by:
all providers of
NHS funded care.**

Dear Colleague,

An organisation identifying itself as 'The Cyrus Project' has sent unsolicited packages, with accompanying literature requesting testing on the enclosed sample, to a number of health related organisations over the last 24 hours.

Public Health England has confirmed initial testing on packages received to date shows it is highly unlikely the substance contained therein is hazardous. However as a precautionary measure, you are advised to take the following actions:

- Handle the package with care, wearing nitrile gloves and quarantine it in a secure leak-proof container.
- Wash your hands, or any part of your body that comes into contact with the package, with water.
- Alert your local NHS England EPRR contact that you have received a package.
- Notify Public Health England via phe.nicc20@phe.gov.uk (providing a named contact on site for PHE to liaise with).
- Contact your local police force via 101 and inform them you are in receipt of a package.
- Media enquiries relating to this should be directed to your local police force.

Counter Terrorism Policing are managing the response and forensic testing is currently underway on the substances received. Further advice will be issued once the testing results are confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Dame Sally Davies
Chief Medical Officer,
England

