



## Cymorth TB Frequently Asked Questions

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This Cymorth TB Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is intended to assist Official Veterinarians (OVs) and Delivery Partners (DPs) with answering questions they may receive from their clients whilst discussing Cymorth TB and the purpose of the Cymorth TB visit.

### Q1) What is Cymorth TB?

Cymorth TB is a programme funded by the Welsh Government (WG) which is aimed to give help to farmers who have TB breakdowns, through their own OVs/private veterinarians. It is an opportunity for you to have a free visit from your private veterinarian to help you either during your TB Breakdown and/or when your TB Breakdown has ended. Your private veterinarian has local knowledge, an overview of the health of your breakdown herd and an established working relationship with you. Your private veterinarian will have undertaken additional training prior to carrying out Cymorth TB visits. They can advise you on disease control measures which are essential for the eradication of bTB, and the control of other diseases, and provide advice on ways you can help protect your cattle and reduce the risk of the disease returning to your farm.

### Q2) How do I request a Cymorth TB Visit?

This can be done in any of the following ways:

- return the Cymorth TB Farm Visit Voucher, sent to you by APHA Wales, by post
- email the APHA Wales Cymorth TB mailbox (email address can be found on the voucher)
- telephone the APHA Wales office on 0300 303 8268 and ask to speak to Cymorth TB Admin
- through your private veterinarian, OV Practice or DP who can contact APHA Wales on your behalf.

### Q3) What is the difference between a Disease Report Form (DRF) Visit and a Cymorth TB Visit? I've already had a DRF Visit, why do I need a Cymorth TB Visit?

A DRF visit is usually carried out within ten days of TB reactors being found on your holding. It is carried out by an APHA Wales veterinarian and where possible this will also be your TB Breakdown Case Veterinarian. The purpose of the DRF Visit is to investigate the origin of disease and give you guidance on the statutory processes which will happen after TB reactors have found.

The Cymorth TB visit is carried out by your own veterinarian and can be timed to suit you at any time during your TB Breakdown. It is suggested that the visit takes place later in the TB breakdown once more results are available and you have had the chance to consider the impact of the TB breakdown and what further actions may be needed. You can also request a Cymorth TB Visit within one month of the end of your TB Breakdown.

### Q4) I would like a Cymorth TB Visit but I'm too busy now, can the visit be carried out at a later date?

Yes, the Cymorth TB visit can be arranged to suit you at any time during your TB Breakdown. You can also have a Cymorth TB visit within one month of the end of your TB Breakdown. When you are ready for a visit, just let APHA Wales know and an instruction will be sent to your private veterinarian to carry out the visit within one month.

### Q5) What difference will it make to the TB breakdown on my farm?

Better team-working between you, your private veterinarian and APHA Wales veterinarians will help to understand the TB breakdown on your farm and provide you with recommendations tailored to your farming business.

### Q6) I've received a negative result for the animals removed and slaughtered from my farm, why would I need a Cymorth TB visit?

The tuberculin skin test detects an immune response in the animal, which occurs before any signs of TB can be detected at slaughter. Therefore animals may be in the early stages of disease when they are found to be reactors and subsequently slaughtered. However, at this stage the animals are still capable of spreading disease to other

cattle in the herd so even though no signs may be found at slaughter the animals may present a risk to other cattle. Your private veterinarian can discuss this further with you, and how to reduce the risk to other cattle, at the Cymorth TB Visit.

**Q7)** What is the benefit of the Cymorth TB Visit when the WG TB Eradication Strategy is ignoring badgers?

At the Cymorth TB Visit, your private veterinarian will be able to provide specific recommendations that you can implement now to protect your cattle from possible infection by badgers and to reduce the risk of the disease returning to your farm in the future.

**Q8)** If I have a Cymorth TB Visit, will there be any penalties if I don't take any improvement actions recommended?

No, the recommendations given by your own veterinarian during/after a Cymorth TB visit are advisory to help improve disease control, though we strongly advise that you carry out these actions as they are designed to help you and the health of your cattle.

**Q9)** Can the Cymorth TB Visit be more than just talking about TB, can it be a holistic discussion of the health of my herd?

Yes, discussing the overall health of your herd is an essential part of Cymorth TB.

**Q10)** I've seen a Cymorth TB leaflet and would like a Cymorth TB Visit, but there is no current TB Breakdown on my farm, nor has there recently been a TB Breakdown - can I still have a visit?

At present, the Cymorth TB visits are only funded by WG for farms currently experiencing a TB Breakdown or those that have had TB restrictions concluded in the last month due to a TB Breakdown. However, you can arrange for your own private veterinarian to carry out a herd health planning visit.

**For OV information - this is the text included in the Cymorth TB letter that is issued by APHA Wales to your clients:**

Cymorth TB On-Farm Veterinary Advice

The Welsh Government is offering you the opportunity to have a free visit from a qualified Cymorth TB Official Veterinarian (OV) who will provide you with advice and support with regard to bovine TB.

You can take advantage of this opportunity at any time during a TB breakdown that suits you and when your TB breakdown has finished. A Cymorth TB visit will help to support you in eradicating the disease from your farm and reducing the likelihood of a further TB Breakdown.

During the visit the OV will:

- discuss the current TB situation on your farm
- complete a farm walk, including boundaries where possible, and discuss identified issues with you
- provide you with information on the disease and the processes involved during a TB Breakdown
- investigate management on your farm in order to assess risks for disease introduction and spread and provide advice on reducing these risks
- provide advice on biosecurity and how best to protect your herd from the introduction and spread of bTB
- assess and provide advice on future options in terms of your business continuity if you were to experience another TB breakdown on your farm
- provide you with advice on best practice to reduce the likelihood of a further TB Breakdown
- make recommendations to help eradicate bTB on your farm.

If you wish to have a Cymorth TB visit, please complete and return the voucher attached or alternatively email/telephone the Cymorth TB team at the APHA Wales Field Services office via the contact details below. It would be useful for you to discuss the benefits of a Cymorth TB visit with your own OV or Veterinary Delivery Partner as they can also request a visit on your behalf if you wish.

Once confirmation has been received, the APHA Wales office will notify your veterinary practice via your Veterinary DP (Iechyd Da/Menter a Busnes). Your veterinary practice will then contact you to arrange for the visit to be completed. Maps of your farm are a useful aid to the discussion with the visiting OV, therefore please can you have these available during the On-Farm visit.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.