

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6182

Please reply to:
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Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
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Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

27 October 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Discharge of known and possible COVID-19 patients by the trust into care homes.

You asked:

1) Of those 233 patients discharged to care homes as above, how many were coded as having a diagnosis of

a) COVID-19 or

b) Suspected COVID-19 but did not receive a test before being discharged to a care home?

2. NHS Providers reports that it approached all NHS trusts for information about how trusts discharged possible COVID-19 patients into care homes

Please confirm if NHS Providers approached Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust for such information

Please share the records of NHS Providers' enquiry to the trust, and the trust's response

3. Has Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust been advised by local Public Health services, Public Health England or care home providers of any care home COVID-19 outbreaks that have been traced back to patients discharged from a trust hospital to the care homes in question?

Specifically, is the trust aware of any transmission from any of the 24 COVID-19 positive patients, discharged by the trust to care homes, to other care home residents following discharge into those care homes?

If so, please advise of the details.

Trust response:

1. All Patients received their results before being discharged to a care home.
2. The Trust has been unable to provide this information at this time due to the large number of emails needed to be manually read. If you can provide us with more information which would narrow the search we may be able to provide the information requested.
3. We are not aware of any specific examples that can be directly linked to discharges, as this would have occurred in the early stages of the pandemic when swabbing was not available to care homes, it would be difficult to demonstrate a causal link