

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6634

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone, Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net
www.mtw.nhs.uk

06 April 2021

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 Covid-19 deaths and vaccinations.

You asked:

- 1. I would like to know how many people have died in your hospitals from COVID-19 alone. As in they died only due to COVID-19. I can see the figures that you publish online, but these are deaths within 28 days of a positive COVID test, so they could have died from other causes. I just want to know the exact figure from 1st February 2020 until 28th March 2021 of people that have died due to COVID-19 and not anything else.*
- 2. The percentage & number of people with underlying health conditions in the overall total.*
- 3. The percentage & number of those without underlying health conditions.*
- 4. If someone had died outside of the 28 days of testing positive would COVID-19 still be their cause of death i.e. Covid-19 (pneumonia) or would it just be pneumonia?*
- 5. Lastly, the vaccination is authorised for emergency use only and is still in live clinical trials until 2023, do you make patients aware of this before they are given their vaccine?*

Trust response:

1. 2. 3. & 4.

The Trust does not hold the information related to patient death in the level of detail requested.

The Trust is able to advise how many patients have died in hospital with no comorbidities (including obesity) detailed on their death certificates i.e., death certificates that are clean except for Covid 19 recorded in section 1a (please

see below). It should be noted that this data may not accurately respond to the question asked.

Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21
0	1	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	3	12	27	5

Consensus expert view would need to be taken with many comorbidities due to the varying clinical opinions on existing health conditions / clinical evidence / scientific data to decide whether any co-morbidities were contributory to the cause of death or not. Such review of individual patients would take longer than the appropriate limit to complete. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with your request.

COVID-19 deaths are recorded by the Trust as per national guidance. The figure, and a description of the definition we are using, is published daily and can be found via the link below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

The link to the Trust level data is available in the daily spreadsheet in the section titled 'COVID-19 all announced deaths'.

Please note that we are providing these links under Section 21 of the FOI Act – 'Information reasonably accessible to the applicant via other means'.

5. The only patients the Trust is vaccinating are those who are highly clinically vulnerable. Information about the vaccine is available for all patients and staff receiving the vaccine both verbally and the national printed information sheet.