

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7393

Please reply to:
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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 Urgent care patients and Covid-19.

You asked:

- 1. The latest information on the Coronavirus on the Trust website lists five bullet points. Beyond the five bullets it lists what undisclosed measures therefore also apply that aren't mentioned there?
Since 24 February 2022 or since the official symptoms list was expanded recently or since 1 April 2022.*
- 2. Are any records kept, for either Maidstone Hospital or Tunbridge Wells Hospital or for both, regarding people who have required urgent care and disclosed to you that they have Covid-19 symptoms?*
- 3. What proportions of urgent care patients have Covid-19 and how many do not?*
- 4. Any special procedures (if so what?) regarding patients coming to urgent care with Covid or around patients who have done so?*
- 5. Do most of these people or many of them, ring in to tell the hospital of the Covid symptoms first and then arrive for urgent care?*
- 6. Please disclose, whatever information you have about numbers/proportions coming into Hospital for urgent care*
 - a. with Covid-19 symptoms*
 - b. with no Covid-19 symptoms*
- 7. Are there any temperature checks on entry to the hospital or any checks that might then reclass the urgent patient to a Covid-19 entry?*

Trust response:

1. Clearly defined Amber and Green pathways throughout urgent and emergency care. We also use rapid swabbing within the Emergency Department (ED) to confirm both positive and negative patients.

2. It is documented on a patients clinical records if they attend ED with a confirmed COVID case or if they are confirmed COVID while in the department. These patients are all managed through the departments COVID pathways.

3. In relation to the percentage of patients in beds there has been an average of 28.4 Covid positive inpatients per day in beds, out of an average non-elective, which would be emergency or urgent care, bed occupancy of around 650. This means that 4-5% of our emergency beds are currently occupied by Covid positive patients.

In relation to the percentage of patients coming into the Trust we have had 54 Covid positive admissions in the last 28 days. The last 28 days have counted 4,206 non-elective admissions which equates to 1.3% of the total admissions.

4. Patients are managed through our Amber and Green pathways according to their presenting symptoms.

5. We do not receive prior phone call for patients attending with COVID

6. We do not have access to sufficiently detailed reportable data which would allow us to answer this question. It may be that the information is held on individual patient records, however the Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. 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 this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

7. Observations are completed at the door to identify the most appropriate pathway