

27 July 2021

Covid testing within Hospitals

Please provide the following information (All questions related to RVH children's hospital Belfast).

Latest policy for dealing with service users who refuse COVID testing.

Belfast Trust, including Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC), continues to follow the Department of Health's regional guidelines in relation to planned and day case surgery. That is, any patient for planned admission, surgery or as a day case must get a swab test prior to their procedure or it may not go ahead.

In an emergency the patient will be treated as 'Covid Status Unknown', rather than positive, and an individual patient clinical assessment will be completed to determine the potential risks prior to surgery will be undertaken at the time.

Breakdown of % staff (nursing and doctors of all grades) who have been vaccines.

The information requested is not held by Belfast Trust. Human Resources collates information on the percentage of Belfast Trust staff overall that have been vaccinated in Belfast Trust clinics. However the information does not identify those specifically who are staff at the RBHSC.

Many Belfast Trust staff have also been vaccinated in clinics run by other Trusts but we would not have this data. Likewise, many staff may also have been vaccinated in GP Surgeries, Pharmacies etc and again which we would not have the data on this.

Trust policy on coercion for refusal to treat due to refusal of COVID test for minors.

There is no specific Belfast Trust policy with regards to this. Belfast Trust works in line with the recently updated Department of Health's 'Testing Guidance' (Version 8).