Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
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FOI/25049

HSC Staff Covid Vaccinations

Please provide any and all documents relating to HSC staff's vaccination levels. I am particularly interested in concerns around unvaccinated care workers and nurses.

I would like to see any information held, in any form, about unvaccinated health and social care staff, particularly anything around the number of unvaccinated staff in contact with vulnerable people, e.g. in care homes.

This information may be available in informal discussion of staff vaccination set out in memos and advice, or planning notes. It may also be available in any discussion around the potential to make vaccination for care workers or nurses compulsory.

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust strongly encouraged all staff to take up the offer of the Covid 19 vaccine; however, it is important to note it is not a mandatory requirement for staff.

Belfast Health and Social Care Staff Vaccinated

The Vaccine Management System – which the majority of staff across health and social care used to book their vaccine appointments - is a regional system and the details of staff and their affiliated 'home' Trust information which is held on that is not accessible to Belfast Trust. Belfast Trust is only able to access data on staff uptake of Covid 19 vaccinations for those staff who attended for their vaccine in the Belfast Trust Vaccination Centre at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

The data available to us is for the period 8.12.20 (when the vaccination programme began in Belfast Trust) – 24.6.21 (the last day of staff-only vaccines before the vaccination centre was open fully to the public):

Belfast Trust's staff uptake position during these dates for permanent and temporary staff is:

1st Dose vaccination 73% (15.996)
2nd Dose vaccination 70% (15,363)

Please note this figure **does not** include bank staff, or staff who received their jab at other vaccination centres like SSE arena, centres close to their homes, GP surgeries, or at local pharmacies. Therefore, the actual number of staff vaccinated is significantly higher than the figures quoted.

Vulnerable People/Care Homes

Information on Care Homes, long-term supported living facilities, learning disability units, residential homes, interim care facilities etc, which were all identified in the cohorts of vulnerable areas, should be sought directly from the providers or from the Regional Management System, where this information is recorded.

Unvaccinated Health and Social Care Staff

Covid 19 Vaccination is not mandatory within Health and Social Care and within the NHS. Information is not held in relation to unvaccinated staff within the Vaccine Management System

However, Belfast Trust on 30 November 2020, as part of its planning for Covid 19 Vaccinations undertook a Covid 19 Vaccine Confidential BHSCT Staff Survey. The purpose was to identify potential staff uptake and reasons why staff may not uptake the vaccination.

The Covid 19 Vaccine Confidential BHSCT Staff Survey had 7647 responses, 6998 responded yes to wishing to have the Covid vaccination, of the 649 who answered they did not wish to avail of the Covid 19 Vaccine, the reasons given they did not wish to avail of the Covid 19 vaccine by highest response order were as follows:

- Concerns over the safety of the vaccine
- Not enough information about the vaccine available
- Not enough vaccine testing has been completed
- Unsure
- Concerned about acquiring Covid 19 or being unwell
- Concerns over the efficacy of the vaccine

This information was used to inform a comprehensive communication plan and programme with staff to encourage vaccine uptake. It included the benefits in protecting themselves, their family's patients and clients, it informed frequently asked questions for staff. Every effort was made to ensure accessibility for staff.