

10 September 2021

Covid-19 Deaths and Information on Under 18s Hospitalised or who died of Covid-19 and Number of Patients who died within 28 Days of Vaccination

I would be obliged if you could tell me how many people died between 1st March 2020 and 1st August 2021 and Covid-19 alone was recorded as a cause of death on their death certificate and can you give me a breakdown of that number in terms of gender and age?

Information contained in this response relating to deaths was gathered from two combined data sources - Mortality Pathway data exported from the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (NIECR)* and an export from the Public Health Agency (PHA) COVID-19 deaths reporting form database.

Deaths identified for the purpose of reporting:

**Any death identified with one or more of the following terminology included on any part of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) and/or a COVID positive PCR test.*

Terms:

- *Covid (pneumonia/pneumonitis)*
- *Covid19 (pneumonia/pneumonitis)*
- *Covid 19 (pneumonia/pneumonitis)*
- *Covid-19 (pneumonia/pneumonitis)*
- *SARS-Cov2 (pneumonia/pneumonitis)*
- *Coronavirus (pneumonia/pneumonitis)*

- *PHA reporting Criteria: Report all individuals who have died within 28 days of a first positive COVID-19 laboratory result (based on specimen date), whether or not COVID-19 was the cause of death.*

- *All other deaths in which COVID-19 is clinically suspected (i.e. without a positive laboratory test result) should be recorded on the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD).*

From 1st March 2020 until 1st August 2021 inclusive, 10 inpatient cases were reported that had one of the above terms recorded on Part 1a of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) and nothing else recorded in Parts 1b,1c or on Part 2.

The gender of the 10 cases was 70% Female and 30% Male. The average age at time of death for this group of patients was 85.

From 1st March 2020 until 1st August 2021 inclusive, there were a total of 464 inpatient cases identified who were reported to either the PHA and/or Department of Health (DoH) – 454 (97.8%) had 1 or more conditions/causes other than COVID-19 also recorded on the MCCD.

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There were an additional 2 cases reported to the PHA and/or the DoH who did not have any of the above terms on any part of their MCCD but had a positive PCR test within the previous 28 days prior to death.

I would also appreciate if you could tell me how many children under the age of 18 have been:

1. Hospitalised as a result of Covid-19 alone, with no other comorbidities

During the period between 1st March 2020 and 1st August 2021 (inclusive) there were 88 admissions to Belfast Trust hospitals for those aged under 18 with a diagnosis of Covid, of which 29 had no other comorbidities recorded.

Please note that comorbidities have been defined as long-term chronic conditions only, as such, acute diseases/conditions have not been included.

2. Died and Covid-19 alone was recorded as a cause of death on the death certificate.

From 1st March 2020 until 1st August 2021 inclusive, there have been no inpatient cases reported to the PHA and/or the DoH of anyone under the age of 18 who passed away with any of the above terms recorded on their death certificate alone, and no other conditions/causes indicated.

From 1st March 2020 until 1st August 2021 inclusive, there were <5 deaths in an inpatient who was under the age of 18 years reported to the PHA and/or the DoH. However, there were multiple other conditions/causes also recorded on the MCCD.

Use of < 5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act - as this could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

I would also appreciate if you could tell me how many people have died within 28 days of receiving a "vaccination" for Covid-19 and provide me with a breakdown of that number in terms of gender and age.

Belfast Trust are unable to respond to this question, as we do not hold this level of detail regarding individual patients' vaccination status. The vaccination status of individual patients is not documented consistently in patient records and is not recorded on a central system in the Trust. The vaccination status of individuals is recorded onto the Regional Vaccine Management System, to which Belfast Trust do not have full access. The Department of Health may be able to assist.