

18 October 2021

Suicide, pneumonia and Covid-19 deaths

1. Can you tell me the total number of **deaths by suicide** in Northern Ireland from the years 2015-2020, as well as for the year 2021 so far.

The information requested is not held by Belfast Trust. This information is held by NISRA: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/>

2. May I also ask you to provide me with the number of deaths **caused by pneumonia** in Northern Ireland for the years 2015-2020 as well as for the year 2021 so far.

Cause of death is not recorded by Belfast Trust. This information is held by NISRA: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/>

3. And finally may I ask that you provide me with the number of deaths **caused SOLELY BY COVID-19** in Northern Ireland from the years 2018 to 2020, as well as 2021 so far.

Context:

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.

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- *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).*

Response:

- From 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019 there were 0 (zero) cases identified or reported as COVID-19 related deaths by the Belfast Trust.
- From 1 January 2020 to 8 September 2021 inclusive, there were 12 inpatient cases 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.
- 502 further cases reported had one or more conditions/causes other than COVID-19 also recorded on the MCCD. There were an additional < 5 (less than five) 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.

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.