

2 December 2021

Covid-19 information concerning deaths, PCR testing, vaccination, treatment drugs and adverse side effects

- 1. Can you provide details of how many people died as a direct consequence of Covid-19 COV-SARS2 and had no other co-morbidity listed on the death certificate other than Covid-19 from 1st March 2020 to present?**

Information contained in this response relating to the number of deaths was based on data exported from the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (NIECR) mortality pathway.

Deaths identified for the purpose of reporting:

*Any death identified with one of the following terms included on Part 1A of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD).

Terms:

- Covid (pneumonia/pneumonitis)
- Covid pneumonia (Community Acquired COVID)
- SARS-Cov2 (pneumonia/pneumonitis)
- Coronavirus (pneumonia/pneumonitis)
- COVID-19

From 1 March 2020 until 9 November 2021 inclusive, there were 21 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 or 1c.

- 2. Can you provide details of what cycles of amplification were used on the PCR testing within your Trust and if there has been any change to the cycle threshold from the 1st March 2020 to present?**

There are many assays and platforms in use in Belfast Trust for molecular testing of SARS CoV2. Manufacturers set the total number of PCR cycles for each of those assays and there is no deviation from that within Belfast Trust. Standard PCRs that mostly employ Taqman chemistry, including SARS CoV2 assays, are either 40 or 45 cycles of PCR.

- 3. Can you provide details on how many patients that required medical assistance, that were vaccinated, were recorded as being unvaccinated due to presenting within 14 days of a vaccine?**

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Belfast Trust are unable to respond, 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 Belfast Trust. The vaccination status of individuals is recorded onto the Regional Vaccine Management System, to which Belfast Trust do not have full access.

Criteria regarding vaccination is set regionally by the Department of Health.

4. **Can you provide details on how many patients within your Trust had their immunity tested prior to receiving any Covid-19 vaccine - testing after 1st vaccine/testing after the 2nd vaccine?**

Pre-vaccination immunity testing is not performed routinely in Belfast Trust.

5. **Can you provide details if any of the following drugs were prescribed to patients Hydroxychloroquine or Ivormectin to treat symptoms of Covid-19?**

Neither drug prescribed to COVID patients in Belfast Trust.

6. **Can you provide details of how many people were diagnosed as having Covid-19 using the PCR test?**

This is publicly available information - please see either the Office for National Statistics website – Link: [Home - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk) or the COVID19 dashboard – Link: [UK Summary | Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](https://data.gov.uk)

7. **If your Trust was asked to provide a sample of (Cov-SARS 2) Covid-19 which has been isolated and purified using Koch postulates for independent analysis. Would your Trust be in a position to do so and if not explain why.**

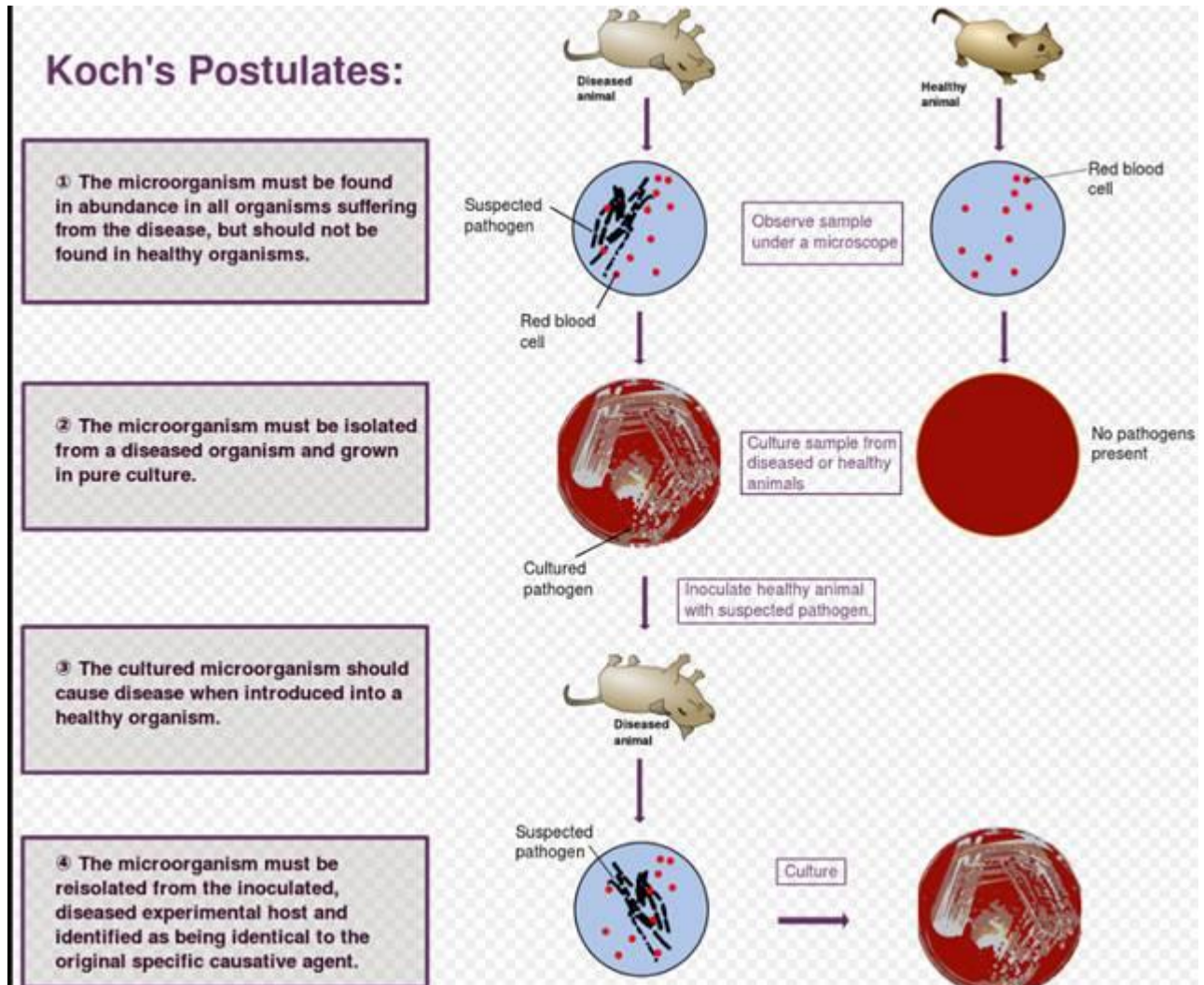
No. Our Laboratory colleagues advise that this is more of an academic question and not relevant for a diagnostic laboratory where Belfast Trust apply diagnostic tests.

The Regional Virus Laboratory (and HSC laboratories in Northern Ireland) do not use viral cell culture as part of their clinical diagnostic repertoire. Cell culture techniques are concentrated in specialist referral laboratories such as those within Public Health England.

All respiratory samples for SARS-CoV2 testing undergo PCR, isothermal amplification or antigen testing. There is no cell culture involved.

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You may wish therefore to refer to scientific research publications for answers to this question, e.g. from Wiki see below:



8. Does your Trust liability insurers cover your staff for adverse effects, life changing injuries or death as a result of taking the Covid-19 vaccines for the purpose of going to work or performing duties connected to their work?

Belfast Trust does not hold insurance cover, it self-insures.

Uptake of the vaccine is a personal choice and requires consent. The Trust does not mandate it for any staff.