

13 August 2025

Infection Control Protocols

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information regarding Belfast Health & Social Care Trust infection control protocol.

- 1. In 2025, what forms of PPE are used on wards where there are sick and/or medically vulnerable patients?**

A range of single-use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is recommended on the wards, including Filtering Facepiece Protection Level 3 (FFP3) respirators, fluid-resistant surgical masks, visors, aprons, long-sleeved fluid-resistant gowns, and gloves.

- 2. In 2025, what is the protocol that must be undertaken when a patient becomes sick in hospital with Covid-19?**

The Infection Prevention Control Team provides guidance based on the 'Respiratory Illnesses Guidance (including COVID-19)', which is available on the Public Health Agency website.

- 3. In 2025, what models of face masks are currently used to prevent spread of viral illness in healthcare environments? (I.e., FFP2, FFP3).**

Based on a range of factors, the Infection Prevention Control Team may recommend the use of either single-use fluid-resistant surgical masks or Filtering Facepiece Protection Level 3 (FFP3) respirators to prevent the spread of viral illnesses in healthcare environments.

- 4. In 2025, are HEPA filters or any types of air filters or tools for air circulation utilised in your healthcare environments to prevent spread of illness?**

Yes, High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filtered portable air circulation units are located across departments where they have been risk assessed and determined to require this level of filtration.