

20 October 2025

Medical Microbiology, Virology and Infectious Disease Workload

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding MM, VIR & ID workload within the Trust.

1. Does your Trust have dedicated virology laboratories, or are diagnostic tests for viral infections conducted in microbiology laboratories?

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (Belfast Trust) has a dedicated Virology laboratory.

2. Do you provide clinical advice to more than 1 Trust? If so, does that include onsite availability and how many Trusts, hospitals, health boards, and organisations?

Belfast Trust has four main acute sites, which all have onsite availability; Regional Sub-specialisms and Regional Virology Laboratory provide clinical advice to the whole of the Health and Social Care System in Northern Ireland.

3. Is your Trust responsible and/or do they cover any other laboratory, if so, how many laboratories?

No other laboratories.

4. What type of lab setup does your organisation currently use?

Centralised / remote labs

5. Approximately how many tests have you received yearly for swabs, blood, urine & stools in the last 5 years for MM, MVIR & ID?

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Microbiology tests	399403	351192	289119	328966	346138	382978
Virology Tests	362632	392625	667462	1047212	693046	429476
Infectious Disease tests	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	762035	743817	956581	1376178	1039184	812454

20 October 2025

6. As a medical microbiologist / medical virologist accredited in infectious diseases, do you provide inpatient care?

Yes

7. How many of your working hours are spent between the listed work areas, per week?

Work Area	Hours
Infection control	50
Significant bacteremia service, e.g. Staphylococcus aureus, multidrug resistant organisms	102
Ward rounds (undertaken by microbiologists or infectious diseases)	40
Intensive care / high dependency unit ward rounds	33
Antimicrobial stewardship ward rounds	0
Clostridioides difficile ward round	0
Inpatient referrals:	40
Review of patients with complicated infections	48
Laboratory work	
Diagnostic laboratory duties (incorporating microbiology, virology, mycology, molecular diagnostics and parasitology)	27
Primary care consultation, liaison and education	15
Liaison with Public Health team	6
Sepsis team MDT and advice	0
Teaching (University / hospital training)	29
Administrative tasks	100

20 October 2025

Work Area	Hours
MDTs e.g. for transplant services / immunocompromised, bone and joint	14
Please list all MDTs	MD Infection Team; Joint Arthroplasty Infection; Inpatient Orthopaedics; Neurosurgery; HIV; Tuberculosis; ID Radiology
Patient transport services (PTS) / Oncology and renal units	0
HIV / HBV and HCV service support	19
Antenatal services / IDPS	2
COVID / Flu IPC	0

8. How many microbiologists also do virology workload

9 – 5 working days	0
Out of Hours	0

9. Does the service cover the listed out-of-hours (inpatient or other)

Virology	Yes
Infection Control	Yes
Occupational Health	No
GUM	No
OPAT	Yes