FOI116 Response

Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

For all the information below please could you provide data from between the dates 01/03/2020 to 01/08/2020, and where possible, could you please provide the figures for each individual month.

1) Has Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust kept records of Covid-19 infections in patients which were hospital acquired? If so:

      a) How many Covid-19 infections in patients were acquired while in Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust?

      b) Of those who acquired Covid-19 while at Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust how many died?

      c) What was the total number of Covid-19 deaths at Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust?

2) Has Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust kept records of members of staff who contracted Covid-19? If so:

      a) How many members of staff contracted Covid-19?

      b) How many members of staff were absent from work due to Covid-19?

      c) How many members of staff died due to Covid-19?

3) What is the procedure for when a patient is diagnosed with Covid-19 outside a Covid-19 ward?

      a) Has this procedure remained the same throughout the time period set out above?

4) What is the procedure for when a member of staff is diagnosed with Covid-19?

      a) Has this procedure remained the same throughout the time period set out above?

Response

1) Has Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust kept records of Covid-19 infections in patients which were hospital acquired? If so:

a) How many Covid-19 infections in patients were acquired while in Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust?

Please see table below for the number of Covid-19 infections within the Trust inpatient services for the period of 01/03/2020 to 01/08/2020 and note that the data does not include patients that were diagnosed with Covid-19 on admission.

On-ward Covid Diagnoses	Diagnosis Month for the Year 2020
3	March
34	April
3	May
0	June
1	July

b) Of those who acquired Covid-19 while at Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust how many died?

There are Nil inpatients that have died from acquiring Covid-19 infection, within their spell at the Trust

c) What was the total number of Covid-19 deaths at Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust?

There are Nil inpatients that have died at the Trust due to Covid-19.

2) Has Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust kept records of members of staff who contracted Covid-19? If so:

a) How many members of staff contracted Covid-19?

The Trust is unable to provide an accurate report on the number of staff members that have contracted Covid-19 infection.

This is because our system which captures staff members Covid-19 status, does not have the capacity to differentiate between staff members that were infected with the Covid-19 (confirmed via positive test result) and staff members that were recorded as having only Covid-19 symptoms.

To obtain the number of staff members that have contracted Covid-19 infection, will require manually searching and collating the data, which the Trust is unable to facilitate. With this in mind, note a Section 12 exemption has been applied as the Trust does not have the capacity to fulfil this question.

b) How many members of staff were absent from work due to Covid-19?

The Trust is unable to accurately report on the number of staff members that were absent from work due to Covid-19 infection. This is because our system which captures staff

members absence, does not have the capacity to differentiate between staff members who were absent with Covid-19 infection(confirmed via positive test result)/Covid-19 symptoms and staff members who are only self-isolating and unable to remotely work from home.

To obtain the data for staff members that have been absent from work due to Covid-19 infection, will require manually searching and collating the data, which the Trust is unable to facilitate. With this in mind, note a Section 12 exemption has been applied as the Trust does not have the capacity to fulfil this question.

c) How many members of staff died due to Covid-19?

There has been Nil staff members that have died due to Covid-19.

3) What is the procedure for when a patient is diagnosed with Covid-19 outside a Covid-19 ward?

a) Has this procedure remained the same throughout the time period set out above?

Managing the spread of Covid-19 infection within the Trust's inpatient service can be highly complex and requires continuous assessment of the risk and welfare of patients as well as staff members.

The Trust has established the following procedure to manage suspected or confirmed Covid-19 infections outside a Covid-19 ward, which will ensure compliance with the Health and Social Care Act 2008, Code of Practice for the NHS for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare-Associated Infections (revised January 2015) and National guidance on Covid-19;

- Patients should remain in isolation with transmission-based precautions (TBP) applied for at least 14 days after the onset of symptoms and not exhibit signs of fever or respiratory symptoms for at least 3 consecutive days.

- For asymptomatic patients, TBP may be discontinued 14 days after the initial positive Covid-19 test result.

- Step down of TBP for Covid-19 infected patient, for home discharge may require individual clinical assessment to be carried out at local level depending on the severity of the disease and underlying conditions, including testing requirements.

- Modifying the duration or discontinuing TBP will need to be in approved by the Clinical Team managing the patient's care and Infection Prevention and Control Team.

- The Clinical Team must notify and include the Infection Prevention and Control Team in the development of strategies, which may be implemented for the patient to minimise any risk or negative impact to their mental wellbeing during the isolation period.

- After a positive diagnosis, a contact trace exercise will be conducted with the purpose to identify potential Covid-19 exposure to other patients/staff members and adequate measures must be implemented to maintain a safe environment.

- Patient's needs relating to their mental health condition must be taken into consideration and explicitly outlined in their care plan.

- Staff Members will have access to appropriate PPE at all times.

The outlined procedure has remained the same since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, however the procedure will be subject to change, to meet the requirements of national guidance and advice.

4) What is the procedure for when a member of staff is diagnosed with Covid-19?

   a) Has this procedure remained the same throughout the time period set out above?

The following procedure has been implemented for staff member's that have either suspected or diagnosed Covid-19 infection,

- Once a member of staff has received a test result following experiencing Covid-19 symptoms, they must immediately contact their Line Manager or designated Deputy Line Manager and inform them of the test result.

- Once a staff member has tested positive for coronavirus, they are informed that they must isolate in accordance to the government's latest guidelines.

- If a staff member reports symptoms whist at work, the Line Manager should make arrangements for them to get home safely and ensure any areas they have accessed are thoroughly disinfected.

- The Line Manager must immediately inform the Infection Prevention and Control Team and the Trust's COVID-19 Team of any suspected cases of Covid-19 infections and confirmation of the following details,
    - Staff member's full name
    - Date of Birth
    - Job Title
    - Start date of symptoms
    - Location of the staff member when symptoms were reported (home or on Trust site)
    - Contact number (Please note that staff members will be notified that this information will be submitted for track and trace.)

- The Line Managers must also inform the Infection Prevention Control Team and the Covid-19 Team immediately whether the suspected Covid-19 infected staff members has a positive or negative test result.

- An internal Test and Trace procedure will be carried out to identify if the infected staff member has had contact with other staff members or patients. This will determine the level of exposure and if further measures will need to be implemented, as well as highlighting any other cases of Covid-19 infections and help reduce the risk of compromising staff members and patients safety.

- If there are further cases of Covid-19 within the same service area that the infected staff member was working within, then the Line Manager must immediately notify the Infection Prevention and Control Team, COVID-19 Team and their Senior Manager. This is because 2 cases within the same staff/patient group can constitute an outbreak, this is subject to external reporting and additional management controls by the Infection Prevention and Control Team.

- The Line Manager must keep in touch with the infected individual on a regular basis to monitor wellbeing and provide support where needed.

The outlined process has not remained the same since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, this is because the process will be subject to change in line with national guidance and advice.