

FOI REF: 21/314

28th June 2021

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

- 1. I would like to know the number of cycles you have been using for the PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test as standard and if that number has ever been changed at any time for whatever reason.**

The Viasure assays the Trust use have a standard cycling profile of one 15-minute reverse transcriptase step, one 2-minute initial denaturing step, and forty-five 1-minute denaturing and annealing/extension cycles, as per the manufacturer's instructions. The Cepheid GeneXpert assay has a similar profile with forty-five denaturing and annealing/extension steps, using the proprietary software from the manufacturer.

- 2. I would also like to know how many children under the age of 16 have been logged as a death from SARSCoV2 without any underlying health issues.**

None.

- 3. In addition, can you please tell me if you have any records of SARSCoV2 going through Koch's Postulates.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust has not been culturing SARS-CoV-2, and has not been deliberately inoculating healthy individuals with the virus in order to demonstrate Koch's postulates.

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4. **Furthermore, could you give me the number of deaths whereby Covid is the sole cause of death listed, there were no other pre-existing conditions or comorbidities noted on the death certificate, covering the period from March 2020 until the present date. If the answer is any, are you able to provide me with the average age of the deceased?**

For the period 1st March 2020 to 31st May 2021 there were 3 patients whereby Covid is the sole cause of death listed, there were no other pre-existing conditions or comorbidities noted on the death certificate. Their average age was 76.

5. **I would also like the number of cycles you run your PCR tests on normally as well as the number of cycles that you are running for PCR tests where the patient/recipient is known to have been vaccinated with one of the available Covid jabs.**

The Viasure assays we use have a standard cycling profile of one 15-minute reverse transcriptase step, one 2-minute initial denaturing step, and forty-five 1-minute denaturing and annealing/extension cycles, as per the manufacturer's instructions. The Cepheid GeneXpert assay has a similar profile with forty-five denaturing and annealing/extension steps, using the proprietary software from the manufacturer.

6. **If there is any difference in the number of cycles being used in relation to the patient's vaccination status please could you explain why?**

The Viasure assays we use have a standard cycling profile of one 15-minute reverse transcriptase step, one 2-minute initial denaturing step, and forty-five 1-minute denaturing and annealing/extension cycles, as per the manufacturer's instructions. The Cepheid GeneXpert assay has a similar profile with forty-five denaturing and annealing/extension steps, using the proprietary software from the manufacturer.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net