

Freedom of Information Request

1) How many people were admitted to Antrim Area hospital with non-covid related conditions, but subsequently tested positive for covid and became covid patients. Month by month from April 2020 if possible.

2020

| | |
|-----|----|
| Mar | 11 |
| Apr | 19 |
| May | 10 |
| Jun | 1 |
| Jul | 1 |
| Aug | 3 |
| Oct | 8 |
| Nov | 27 |
| Dec | 76 |

2021

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Jan | 103 |
| Grand Total | 259 |

The above table shows all patients whose first positive COVID test was later than their date of admission to hospital. Please note that this does not necessarily mean that infection took place in hospital, as patients may test negative for some time after contracting the virus.

(2) How often are admitted patients PCR tested for covid? Daily, weekly, fortnightly?

All patients within the Northern Trust are tested in accordance with the regional testing guidance. This is broadly along the following protocol:

1. On admission to any Trust facility (although we also test to community facilities over and above the testing guidance). Recently this has moved from PCR to rapid antigen testing on the Antrim and Causeway site.
2. If positive by antigen test, this will be confirmed by PCR.
3. If admission test is negative further test(s) will be performed:
 - a. 5-7 days later routinely if patient remains in hospital.
 - b. If there is a change in clinical condition in keeping with COVID-19.
 - c. If the patient is to be transferred to another hospital for ongoing care.
 - d. If the patient is being discharged into a package of care, care home or other setting that requires a test to protect vulnerable groups.
4. If the patient is admitted to a long term facility within the hospital, testing is performed routinely every 28 days.