

FOI033 Response

Request

Dear sir/madam,

Please find below my FOI related to fit-testing of respiratory protective equipment.

1. How many medical staff were working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment in February 2020, March 2020, April 2020 and May 2020? Please give the numbers broken down by the months; and, if it is possible, please break it down by type of staff member (nurse, doctor, etc) and setting. If it is possible, please separate out those working in Covid-affected environments (I do not know if you hold a separate register for Covid and non-Covid).
2. How many of the medical staff working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment in Covid-affected environments were fit-tested for that equipment in February 2020, March 2020, April 2020 and May 2020? Please give the numbers broken down by the months; and, if it is possible, please break it down by type of staff member (nurse, doctor, etc) and setting. Again, if it is possible, please separate out those working in Covid-affected environments.

If the data is sensitive enough to show where the same staff were fit-tested multiple times, please include that information.

3. Do you collect data on medical staff working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment being fit-tested when they change brand/type of RPE? If so, please give the figures for Feb, March, April and May 2020 as above.
4. Do you track the ethnicity of the staff member with this data? If so, please give the ethnicity breakdowns for the above data for all questions.

Response

- 1. How many medical staff were working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment in February 2020, March 2020, April 2020 and May 2020? Please give the numbers broken down by the months; and, if it is possible, please break it down by type of staff member (nurse, doctor, etc) and setting. If it is possible, please separate out those working in Covid-affected environments (I do not know if you hold a separate register for Covid and non-Covid).**

The Trust does not collate data on how many medical staff were wearing a respiratory protective equipment while working. Please note that the Trust does hold a register that captures staff members who have been fit tested for respiratory protective equipment, this however would not correlate to actual usage.

Please also note that PPE including respiratory protective equipment is available for all clinical staff to wear following national and local guidelines and there is no limited access to this PPE.

- 2. How many of the medical staff working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment in Covid-affected environments were fit-tested for that equipment in February 2020, March 2020, April 2020 and May 2020? Please give the numbers broken down by the months; and, if it is possible, please break it down by type of staff member (nurse, doctor, etc) and setting. Again, if it is possible, please separate out those working in Covid-affected environments. If the data is sensitive enough to show where the same staff were fit-tested multiple times, please include that information.**

Please see table below which captures Trust substantive staff members and TSS staff members (bank staff) who have been fit tested for respiratory protective equipment.

Please note that within the table "Other" is referring to staff members from the following fields,

- Psychology
- Occupational Therapist
- Health Care Assistance
- Admin Clerical
- Non-Clinical Managers
- Estates and Facilities

The list is not exhaustive and includes all groups of staff that sit outside of the Nursing and Medics category.

Please be aware that the figures for March 2020 have been artificially increased as a new system was implemented, and all retrospective Fit test results uploaded. For some historic records we did not have the exact date available of when the fit test occurred, therefore March was used as the start point for the system.

In addition to this note that the breakdown of staff members working in COVID affected environment could not be provided as this information is not captured.

Please be aware that the Trust has increased our fit testing program and ensured that face fitting is carried out for all staff members in clinical areas on a daily basis. In addition to this all staff members are instructed and constantly updated on the use of correct PPE in line with national guidance.

Fit Test Table

March 2020	April 2020	May 2020
Medics	Medics	Medics
Total – 68	Total – 24	Total – 15
Nursing	Nursing	Nursing
Total – 202	Total – 104	Total – 40
Other	Other	Other
Total – 175	Total – 144	Total – 61
Grand March Total - 445	Grand April Total - 272	Grand May Total - 116

- 3. Do you collect data on medical staff working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment being fit-tested when they change brand/type of RPE? If so, please give the figures for Feb, March, April and May 2020 as above.**

The Trust does not collate this information, this is because staff members are tested to a specific mask and are given the details of that respirator. Furthermore, the Trust has established consistency on the 3 bands of respiratory protective equipment available for staff members and staff members are able to choose the one they have been face fitted for.

With the above in mind there has not been the need to re-fit anyone due to change of brand or model.

Please note that staff members will be re-fitted with the appropriate respiratory protective equipment if any of the following occurs,

- The Trust no longer uses a specific model.
- Every 3 years to ensure that the current respiratory protective equipment appropriately fits.
- If there is a significant change in the staff member's face shape, for example gain or loss of significant weight.

- 4. Do you track the ethnicity of the staff member with this data? If so, please give the ethnicity breakdowns for the above data for all questions.**

The Trust's does not capture this information.

Please note that adequate PPE including respiratory protective equipment is consistently available as a priority for staff in clinical settings and in line with national guidance.