

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: UHB 18-462**

Date 17 August 2018

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

**1. Do you routinely carry out point of care tests for bacterial and viral infections?**

We currently do not undertake any molecular point-of-care testing at UHBristol. Our blood cultures are incubated on-site, but positives are transported to NBT for processing.

We undertook rapid influenza and RSV testing over the last winter period (January – March) and have plans in place to deliver a more comprehensive testing programme for this winter period. There are also plans in place to test for norovirus on site – funding for this needs to be agreed.

**2. In what scenarios do you use point of care testing?**

We do not use point of care tests (i.e. at the bedside) but the Trust did undertake near-patient testing over the last winter period looking for influenza and RSV. We propose to offer an extended service over this winter period.

**3. What is the average length of time taken for results of point of care tests for bacterial and viral infections to be delivered?**

The influenza/RSV test takes approximately 30 minutes per sample.

**4. Which bacterial or viral infections do you test for specifically?**

Influenza/RSV

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Trust Secretary

University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

### Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**FOI Team**  
**UH Bristol NHS Foundation Trust**