

FOI Request - COVID Information –Victoria Court (Part 2 of 2)

Please Read

The focus of this Freedom of Information request (FOI request) is:

- Victoria Court NHS Hospital in Gravely in Hertfordshire
- The governing Trust – ‘HPFT Trust’

In my view, the governing Trust is best-placed to take receipt of this FOI request and arrange for the questions in to be answered. This FOI request is split into two parts – parts 1 and 2. This document is Part 2.

Part 1 covers:

1. General
2. Testing
3. Access Control
4. Protective Barriers [PPE}

Part 2 covers:

5. Quarantining
6. Isolating

The questions in this FOI request are generally related to the institutions' policy and practice during the pandemic and lockdown.

Some of the questions may require explanation and clarification. Where that is the case, I have included an ‘Explanatory Notes’ box at the bottom of the section. Please read the notes before attempting the questions in the section.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Quarantining	A resident who is a candidate for <u>quarantining</u> is a resident who has become symptomatic but whose COVID status is not yet known (either because a test has not been done or because the test result is not back yet). The definition DOES NOT include any resident who has recently been tested and the test result is known and is tested-positive
Isolating	A resident who is a candidate for <u>isolating</u> is a resident is tested-positive (i.e. a resident whose test-result is known and is positive. The definition DOES NOT include residents who are just symptomatic or residents who have been tested but where the result is not back yet.

1. Quarantine

Please answer the following questions and put the answers in the column provided.

Questions 1- 4 below are not time specific. They are about the state-of-play in-general.

Questions 5 – 9 are about the state-of-play at the start of the week beginning Mon 6th April i.e. during that week.

Question			Answer Column
No.	Is question Time-specific?		
Q1	No	Did Victoria Court have a dedicated Quarantine Area (Y/N)?	Yes.
Q2	No	If the answer to Q1 is ‘yes’, during what week did the dedicated Quarantine Area first become available to take residents?	Week ending 13 th March 2020
Q3	No	If the answer to Q1 is ‘yes’, give a brief description of the dedicated Quarantine Area (For example, where located, how many rooms)?	Please see the answer in Part 1; 4 – Access Control; 4.1 The Middle Boundaries (the building’s two wings) question 3.
Q4	No	If the answer to Q1 is ‘yes’, did Victoria Court ever have any symptomatic residents before the dedicated Quarantine Area became available (Y or N)?	No.
Q5	Yes – Please give state-of-play at Mon 6th April	This question is about official Victoria Court policy. Was it Victoria Court policy to keep every ‘symptomatic resident’ in his or her own room 24-7 until their test result was known, beginning when he or she first became symptomatic (Y or N)?	No. They would be moved to the Isolation Wing. Please see the answer in Part 1; 4 – Access Control; 4.1 The Middle Boundaries (the building’s two wings) question 3
Q6	Yes – Please give state-of-play at Mon 6th April	Did the dedicated Quarantine Area also contain any confirmed COVID-positive residents (Y or N)?	Yes. As per Trust Policy and Public Health England Guidance.
Q7	Yes – Please give state-of-play at Mon 6th April	Think about the members of staff (nurses and 1-to-1 carers) who were working at that time in the dedicated Quarantine Area. Was the working regime at the time such that staff worked <u>only</u> in the dedicated Quarantine Area (Yes or No?) Guidance - you should answer ‘No’ if one or more staff in the Quarantine Area also had close proximity contact with a ‘normal resident’ during his or her shift? A ‘normal resident’ is a resident who has never been symptomatic or tested-positive.	Please see the answer in Part 1 – 4. Access Control; 4.1 The Middle Boundaries (the building’s two wings) question 2. NOTE: The right of access created by the Freedom of Information Act

			only applies to recorded information. This does not include requests asking for a person's thoughts, wishes, opinions or general advice.
Q8	Yes – Please give state-of-play at Mon 6th April	This question is about official Victoria Court policy. Was it Victoria Court policy for staff working with a quarantined resident to decontaminate after each time they EXITED his or her room (Yes or No)?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>All our wards adhere to the following Trust Policies.</p> <p>Cohorting Service Users on Inpatient Wards</p> <p>Local procedures for caring for service users with suspected or confirmed diagnosis of covid-19 - in line with PHE guidelines of Putting on personal protective equipment (Donning and Doffing).</p> <p>Decontamination Policy</p>
Q9	Yes – Please give state-of-play at Mon 6th April	<p>This question is about official Victoria Court policy. Was it Victoria Court policy for staff working with a quarantined resident to decontaminate before each time they ENTERED his or her room (Yes or No)?</p> <p>Guidance – this question is relevant if staff dealing with a Quarantining resident also had, on the same shift, close proximity contact with other residents who were quarantining or tested-positive or symptomatic.</p>	Please see above the answer to question 8.

Explanatory Notes

Q8 and Q9 only –

Write 'NA' (Not Applicable) if Victoria Court policy was not to confine symptomatic residents to his or her own rooms 24-7 until their test result is known. If you answered 'Y', what was the decontamination process in April?

2. Isolation

Please answer the following questions and put the answers in the column provided.

Questions 1- 4 below are not time specific. They are about the state-of-play in-general.

Questions 5 – 9 are about the state-of-play at the start of the week beginning Mon 6th April i.e. during that week.

Questions			Answer Column
No.	Is question Time-specific?		
Q1	No	Did Victoria Court have a dedicated Isolation Area (Y/N)?	Please refer to the answer in Part 2, 1 – Quarantine question 1.
Q2	No	If the answer to Q1 is ‘yes’, during what week did the dedicated Isolation Area first become available to take residents?	Please refer to the answer in Part 2, 1 – Quarantine question 2
Q3	No	If the answer to Q1 is ‘yes’, give a brief description of the dedicated Isolation Area (For example, where located, how many rooms)?	Please refer to the answer in Part 2, 1 – Quarantine question 3
Q4	No	If the answer to Q1 is ‘yes’, did Victoria Court ever have any tested-positive residents before the dedicated Isolation Area became available (Y or N)?	Please refer to the answer in Part 2, 1 – Quarantine question 4
Q5	Yes – Please give state-of-play at Mon 6th April	This question is about official Victoria Court policy. Was it Victoria Court policy to permit residents in the dedicated Isolation Area to move around outside their own rooms (Y or N)? Guidance – only answer ‘No’ if all residents were permanently kept in their own rooms 24-7.	Please refer to the answer in Part 2, 1 – Quarantine question 5
Q6	Yes – Please give state-of-play at Mon 6th April	Did the dedicated Isolation Area also contain any symptomatic residents whose test result was not yet back (Yes or No)?	Please refer to the answer in Part 2, 1 – Quarantine question 6
Q7	Yes – Please give state-of-play at Mon 6th April	Think about the members of staff (nurses and 1-to-1 carers) who were working at that time in the dedicated Isolation Area. Was the working regime at the time such that they worked exclusively in the dedicated Isolation Area (Y or N)? You should answer ‘No’ if one of more of the staff also had close proximity contact with a ‘normal resident’ during his or her shift? A ‘normal resident’ is a resident who has never been symptomatic or tested-positive.	Please refer to the answer in Part 2, 1 – Quarantine question 7
Q8	Yes – Please give state-of-play at Mon 6th April	Think again about the members of staff who were working in the dedicated Isolation Area. If the area contained BOTH (a) confirmed tested-positive residents and (b) symptomatic residents whose test result is being awaited, did staff working in the area tend both types of resident during their shifts (Y or N or N/A)?	Please refer to the answer in Part 2, 1 – Quarantine question 8
Q9	Yes – Please give state-of-play at Mon 6th April	This question is about official Victoria Court policy. Was it Victoria Court policy at the time for each member of staff to decontaminate each time they EXITED the dedicated Isolation Area (Y or N)?	Please refer to the answer in Part 2, 1 – Quarantine question 9

Explanatory Notes

Q9 only –

If you answered ‘Y’, briefly say what the decontamination process was in April.