



Freedom of Information Team
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Date: 22/12/2021

Ref: 21-22 467

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 13/11/2021. Please see responses to your requests below.

Which cycle threshold (ct) are you using in your hospital in PCR test for patient and staff since the declaration of the pandemic in 2020.

Since the pandemic was declared in 2020 a range of assays have been employed by PHU in the detection of SARS-CoV-2.

The primary test used by the Trust is the Hologic Panther which uses a technology called Transcription Mediated Amplification (TMA). This does not generate a recordable Ct value, instead it utilises Relative Light Units (RLU), which are not quantifiable in the same way as a Ct value. The cut off for this in which a sample will be regarded as positive for SARS-CoV-2 is set by the assay manufacturer; with interpretation performed by the analytical platform. The Point of Care assay utilised in the Emergency Department is a LAMP based technology and does not utilise a Ct value to determine a positive result.

Other assays in use include the GeneXpert, QIAstat DX Respiratory Panel and cobas 6800; these all utilise manufacturer's derived Ct values for their test threshold's and these are built into interpretive software, as a result these are not known.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information, please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

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