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29th September 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/09/04.

You requested the following information:

**The Paddock Wood station achieved a high 88% immunisation rate.
Were there any particular circumstances which enabled this high rate?**

Paddock Wood is a central reporting station and the management at site were very pro-active in vaccinating their staff.

Was the analysis of vaccination rates by station shared with the station managers?

Yes, all the local uptake rates were shared throughout the Trust.

Is it possible for the Trust to share a copy of the vaccination training Powerpoint presentation mentioned in the report?

Please see attached the Influenza Training presentation. This presentation remains the property of South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust and may not be reproduced for any other purpose.

What is the approximate cost of a fridge to store the vaccines in?

The cost of the pharmacy fridges used are approximately £330.00 each.

Do staff receive a free chocolate bar or something similar after receiving the flu vaccine?

No.

I am interested to know if the staff sickness rates increase during the winter months when flu is prevalent, although I realise that for instance in 2014/15 there was a significant mismatch of the vaccine and the actual flu virus.

Could I please have a monthly listing of staff sickness from April 2013 to July 2015, for all clinical staff, but if this is not readily available, then for all Ambulance Trust staff.

If possible, is the monthly number of sick days per month available, or alternatively please supply whatever measure is generally used for staff sickness.

Please see the attached spreadsheet which shows absence days lost for A & E staff and the Trust as a whole on a monthly basis from April 2013 to July 2015. The spreadsheet also shows total full time equivalent hours available and percentage of absence rate.

Please also supply a copy of the most recent flu plan for 2015/16.

The annual flu programme is led by the Infection Control Lead (ICL) with support from the Infection Control Sub Group which meets bi-monthly and will formally make any changes required to the programme as it progresses. The plan for 2015 / 2016 is to appoint local flu leads for specific areas of the Trust who will liaise with the ICL providing him with uptake figures during the programme and he in turn will provide support locally when required. This follows on from last year's improvement in uptake figures and replaces the old style of holding flu clinics on stations which had limited success rates.

The ICL provides all vaccines, awareness posters, leaflets and clinical evidence materials to staff and these can also be accessed via the Trusts Intranet and regular updates are shown in the Trusts Weekly Bulletin.

The flu vaccination programme / plan has to remain adaptable due to the nature of the work of ambulance services and trying to access staff to administer the vaccine still remains the main problem faced by the Trust. It is hoped that local flu leads will be best placed to know when and how to capture the staff to administer the vaccine and this is why there is no fixed plan in writing that we can share with you.

I hope you find this information helpful.

If, for whatever reason you are unhappy with our response, you are entitled to pursue any dissatisfaction through South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust's (SECamb) Internal Review Procedure at:

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
40-42 Friars Walk
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW
Email: complaints@secamb.nhs.uk

Should you remain unhappy with the outcome of any such internal review , you may request a decision from the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust