

10/08/2023

Dear Requester,

**FOI 2076**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which was received within the Trust.  
Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

**I am writing to request the following information. This information relates to the NHS England Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Framework in general and section 10, "Cycle of preparedness", in particular.**

**Please note that much of the information requested is only records of the existence of current procedures, training, resources and tests, and not the contents of the procedures, training, resources and tests themselves.**

**Patient care and support services**

**Continuity of essential clinical support services**

**1. Any record of whether procedures exist to ensure operational continuity of essential clinical support or ancillary services (e.g. laboratory, radiology, pharmacy) during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**2. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**3. Any record of whether resources to implement the above procedures can be mobilized at all times. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**Expansion of usable space for mass casualty incidents**

**4. Any record of whether procedures and resources exist to expand space and provide access to extra beds in mass casualty incidents. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**5. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**6. The date(s) of the most recent test(s) of the above procedures. (Can be answered with a date or dates.)**

Tested on 13/03/2023, 14/03/2023, 15/03/2023, 11/04/2023 as part of pre-planned incident management activity.

#### **Triage for major emergencies and disasters**

**7. Any record of whether space has been designated and procedures exist to carry out triage during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**8. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**9. The date(s) of the most recent test(s) of the above procedures. (Can be answered with a date or dates.)**

Tested on 13/03/2023, 14/03/2023, 15/03/2023, 11/04/2023 as part of pre-planned incident management activity.

#### **Triage tags for mass casualty incidents**

**10. Any record the existence of triage tags for mass casualty incidents. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

No, in a mass casualty incident Ambulance service personnel will be providing initial triage and triage tags for patients. Once arrived at the hospital, the triage tag attached by the ambulance service will determine the pathway for patient care. This pathway follows our standard triage process and will be informed by the initial triage tags applied by the Ambulance service. However, duplication of specific mass casualty triage tags does not happen in the trust.

#### **System for referral, transfer and reception of patients**

**11. Any record of whether procedures exist for the reception, referral and transfer of patients to and from other health facilities within and outside the geographical area where the hospital is located during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**12. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**13. The date(s) of the most recent test(s) of the above procedures. (Can be answered with a date or dates.)**

Recently tested on 13/03/2023, 14/03/2023, 15/03/2023, 11/04/2023 as part of pre-planned incident management activity.

#### **Infection surveillance, prevention and control procedures**

**14. Any record of whether procedures exist for infection prevention and control during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**15. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**16. Any record of whether resources are available for implementation of the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

#### **Psychosocial services**

**17. Any record of whether procedures exist for provision of psychosocial support, assessment and treatment services to patients, families and staff during emergencies and disasters. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**18. Any record of whether staff have been trained in the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

**19. Any record of whether resources are available for implementation of the above procedures. (Can be answered yes / no.)**

Yes

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Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests *for internal review* should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to: [dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk). This option is available to you for up to three calendar months from the date your response was issued.

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

*FOI Officer*

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust