

Ref. No: 232090821
From: Public
Date: 09/08/21
Subject: SARS-CoV-2 VIRUS ISOLATION & RT-PCR CYCLE THRESHOLD

REQUEST & RESPONSE

Firstly, I would be very grateful if you could send me all records in the possession, custody or control of the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust describing the isolation of a SARS-CoV-2 virus, directly from a sample taken from a Covid-19 diseased patient, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka vero cells; lung cells from a lung cancer patient).

Please note that I am using "isolation" in the every-day sense of the word: the act of separating a thing(s) from everything else. I am not requesting records where "isolation of SARS-CoV-2" refers instead to:

- the culturing of something
- or the performance of a RT-PCR amplification test
- or the computer sequencing of something

Please also note that my request is not limited to records that were authored by the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, or that pertain to work done by the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has downloaded or printed.

If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it).

[We do not isolate viruses at St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.](#)

Secondly, could you please inform me what your recommended RT-PCR Test Cycle Threshold is? Has this changed recently and, if so, when and why did it change?

St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals use various closed systems which stop cycling at the point when the threshold for positivity has been reached. The maximum number of cycles undertaken will be 45. There have been no modifications to the number of cycles.