

Date 29 July 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11651

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFLUENZA

I write in response to your request for information in relation to influenza.

Question:

1. Your definition of an active case of influenza.

Answer:

An active case of influenza refers to an individual currently infected with the influenza virus, showing symptoms, and capable of transmitting the virus to others.

Question:

2. The methods used to confirm an influenza case and distinguish it from other viral acute respiratory infections.

Answer:

Various methods are available depending on location and any clinical or epidemiological need for confirmation. PCR is the most used technology to confirm an influenza case and distinguish it from other viral acute respiratory infections.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive