

Report Title	Gold update on COVID-19 position, including vaccine update		
Sponsoring Executive	Liam Kennedy – Chief Operating Officer		
Report Author	Melanie Roberts – Acting Chief Nurse, Liam Kennedy – Chief operating officer		
Meeting	Public Trust Board	Date	1 st July 2021

1. Suggested discussion points *[two or three issues you consider the Committee should focus on]*

The community rate of COVID infection has significantly reduced and remained stable for several weeks. We have however started to see an increase in the community infection rates over the last 2 weeks but numbers remain small, this is being monitored. Hospital admissions remain relatively static with only 3% of patients now having a positive result for Covid.

We do currently have the highest occupancy of Covid Critical care Patients across the Midlands and this combined with the small increase in community rates means we are monitoring daily trigger points in our surge plan.

Despite efforts to switch our last remaining red ward to an amber area, estate challenges have prevented this from happening. A back up plan is being worked through with the principle before next CLE to have removed D17 as a Red ward.

LAMP testing is now embedded in the organisation, but uptake still continues to be a challenge. Further proposals are being looked at to try and increase uptake, groups must ensure that all staff Lamp test regularly in an effort to protect each other and our patients. We need to set a precedent as senior leaders and promote this.

Our Surge Plan has been finalised with Clinical groups and Services inputting.

2. Alignment to 2020 Vision *[indicate with an 'X' which Plan this paper supports]*

Safety Plan	x	Public Health Plan		People Plan & Education Plan	
Quality Plan		Research and Development		Estates Plan	x
Financial Plan		Digital Plan		Other <i>[specify in the paper]</i>	

3. Previous consideration *[where has this paper been previously discussed?]*

none

4. Recommendation(s)

Trust board is asked to:

- | | |
|----|---|
| a. | Note the contents of the report including the reduction in red capacity across both sites |
| b. | Acknowledge and act on the uptake of LAMP testing across the organisation |
| c. | |

5. Impact *[indicate with an 'X' which governance initiatives this matter relates to and where shown elaborate]*

Trust Risk Register						
Board Assurance Framework						
Equality Impact Assessment	Is this required?	Y		N	x	If 'Y' date completed
Quality Impact Assessment	Is this required?	Y		N	x	If 'Y' date completed

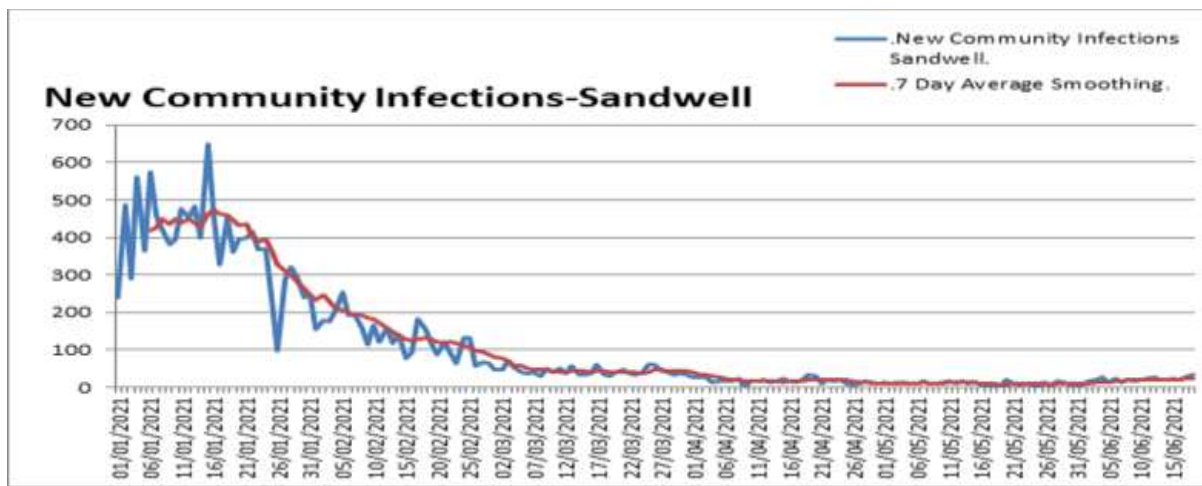
SANDWELL AND WEST BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

Report to the Trust Board: 1st July 2021

Gold update on COVID-19 position, including vaccine update

1. Community infection Rate

- 1.1 We can see a small increase in infection rates as outlined in the table below. We will monitor the slight increase in cases seen in line with lockdown relaxation in the community closely as well as the increase in Critical care cases.



- 1.2 Birmingham have become an area of concern which means they have access to increased testing and vaccine to support the population in the prevention of covid. This is due to the rising cases in this area of the delta variant which now accounts for over 90% of the current covid infections

2. IPC guideline changes

- 2.1 New IPC guidance has been issued that which emphasises the current use of masks and social distancing
- 2.2 The main changes are to the required level of protection for Aerosol generating procedures (APG) which reduces the level of protection for low risk APG. The infection control team are currently doing the piece of work we need completed before as a Trust we agree to make these changes.

3. Staff testing

- 3.1 Lamp testing is now embedded in the organisation, but uptake still continues to be a challenge. Further proposals such as awareness campaigns across all shift patterns at all sites are being looked at to try and increase uptake, groups must ensure that all staff Lamp test regularly in an effort to protect each other and our patients. We need to set a

precedent as senior leaders and promote this as good practice to protect both each other and our patients.

4. Vaccination

- 4.1 The vaccination centre at Tipton continues and we are close to the 50,000 vaccine mark. We are now offering both Pfizer and Astra Zeneca. Vaccine is now open to everyone above the age of 18 both first and second doses.
- 4.2 We are also working in partnership with public health to deliver pop up clinics across Sandwell and west Birmingham. The first pop up clinic was at Smethwick on Friday 18th June and we worked with local faith and community groups to make this a success. This is a targeted piece of work rather than an open access initiative
- 4.3 80% of staff have now received the vaccine. The majority of staff who have declined the vaccine have either had discussions with line managers or HR to understand what their reasons are to see if we can offer any reassurance to encourage vaccine uptake. We continue to communicate where staff can access the vaccine
- 4.4 As of Monday 21st June the Trust will be leading the city vaccination hub on behalf of the PCNs. This is to support them with second vaccines for the over 40's and first vaccines for the under 40's to increase their uptake. The national ask is for all cohorts to be at 85% of that particular population vaccinated by the 21st July

5. Swabbing

- 5.1 There have been some changes to the swabbing regimes across the Trust. We have agreed a new pathway for patients in the surgical pathway. There have been some issues with patients refusing to be swabbed and in this case we will then treat them as a red patient
- 5.2 Within ITU we have increased the swabbing of patients requiring an AGP to every 3 days whilst in the unit and a new flowchart has been developed for clarity for staff

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Trust Board is asked to:
 - a) Note the contents of the report including the vaccine position and changes in IPC guidance
 - b) Acknowledge and discuss the uptake of LAMP testing across the organisation

Liam Kennedy
Chief Operating Officer
Melanie Roberts
Acting Chief Nurse
June 2021