

Report Title:	Gold update on COVID-19		
Sponsoring Executive:	Liam Kennedy, Chief Operating Officer		
Report Author:	Liam Kennedy, Chief Operating Officer Mel Roberts, Chief Nurse		
Meeting:	Trust Board (Public)	Date	2 nd March 2022

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

The Report covers the current Covid Position in the organisation and highlights the changes in IPC regulations since the last update.

The report also highlights the position on Vaccination as a Condition of Deployment (VCOD) and outlines the future risks around this

2. Alignment to our Vision *[indicate with an 'X' which Strategic Objective this paper supports]*

Our Patients		Our People		Our Population	
To be good or outstanding in everything that we do	X	To cultivate and sustain happy, productive and engaged staff	X	To work seamlessly with our partners to improve lives	

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

CLE, Q&S

4. Recommendation(s)

The Board is asked to:

- DISCUSS** any impact caused by the change in IPC rules
- DISCUSS** the potential impact of the mandatory vaccination policy

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

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

SANDWELL AND WEST BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

Report to the Trust Board February 2022

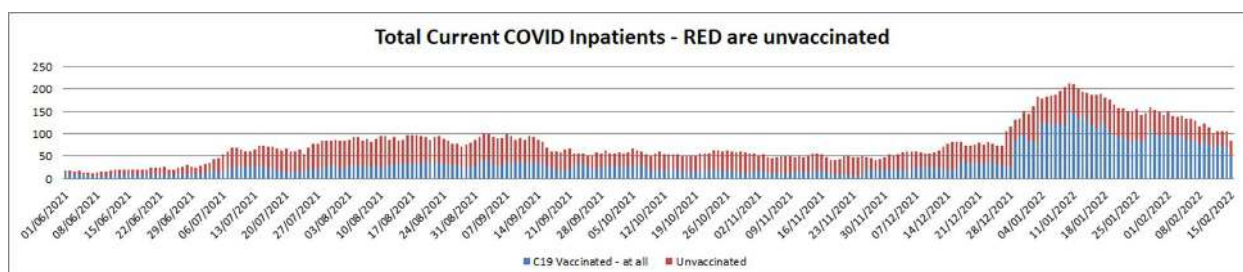
Gold update on COVID-19

1. Community infection Rate

- 1.1 We have continually seen a drop in infection rates in the community and a resultant drop off in the Trust occupancy rates.

2. Inpatients

We now have fewer than 80 Covid patients in the organisation. This has allowed us to start the reset programme in terms of our wards. Over the next few weeks we will be reducing our expansion areas opened for winter (D30,N1), switch our red wards back to amber and return the surgical bed base back to pre Covid numbers.



3. IPC changes

- 3.1 Our internal command structure at strategic level has approved a roadmap for return to business as usual from an infection control perspective, which includes moving from FFP3 masks to surgical masks, reviewing the covid and non covid pathways and returning to pre covid levels for elective care for non-respiratory patients. We will take the agreed, staged approach through our strategic and tactical command and update Board retrospectively in April.
- 3.2 Visiting will recommence on the 2nd March 2022, masks will be required along with lateral flow test result for entry, initially.

4. Workforce cell

- 4.1 The workforce hub that has continued to ensure daily follow up of Covid related and other sickness absence which has successfully reduced our absence rate down to 6.8% at the time of writing from a peak of 13% with our average rate in recent weeks being maintained at 8.2%. We are targeting reducing this to 6% by 31st March 2022.
- 4.2 The workforce hub has also continued to support the coordination of staff vaccination efforts linked to the Vaccination as a Condition of Deployment requirements (VCOD) legislation, which was anticipated to become law with effect from 1st April 2022.

However, following a recent Health Secretary announcement, The Department of Health and Social Care are now consulting on the potential for revoking provisions which previously required COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of employment in health and social care settings, including the NHS.

4.3 The requirement for NHS Trusts to serve staff who were non-compliant with the legislation requirements contractual notice on the 4th February 2022 is rescinded pending the outcome of the national consultation exercise which will close on 16th February 2022.

4.4 The current numbers of staff who are fully vaccinated is at 85.87% and partially vaccinated is 90.96%.

4.5 We continue to promote and encourage staff vaccination as a means of supporting the wider public health agenda. This includes targeting communications for staff who are anxious about taking up the vaccine, by providing them with bespoke health advice sessions e.g. on the clinical safety of the vaccine.

5. Place Vaccination Programme

5.1 The 12-15 year old programme at schools continues and will be completed by the end of March. We are undertaking this programme on behalf of both Sandwell and Dudley Place.

5.2 The 5-11 year old clinically vulnerable programme has commenced. Tipton has developed an area just for this group of children and named it "Vaccination Street". This has gained national interest and we have been asked to present across the work on national webinars.

5.3 We have also attended a national government meeting to present as a partnership the vaccination work we have implemented in Sandwell with vulnerable patients such as care homes, housebound and the pop up clinics.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Trust Board is asked to:

- a) Discuss any impact caused by the change in IPC rules
- b) Discuss the potential impact of the mandatory vaccination policy

Liam Kennedy
Chief Operating Officer

Melanie Roberts
Chief Nurse

22nd February 2021