

Report Title:	COVID-19: Overview, including vaccination update		
Sponsoring Executive:	Liam Kennedy – Chief Operating Officer		
Report Author:	Liam Kennedy – Chief operating officer, Mel Roberts – Chief Nurse		
Meeting:	Trust Board	Date	2 nd December 2021

1. Suggested discussion points <i>[two or three issues you consider the Board should focus on]</i>
<p>The community rate of infection has stabilised over the last few weeks and we have not seen a reduction in the numbers of those getting tested. The community rate, continues to not be a reliable predictor of infection rate and hence the demand on acute services.</p> <p>The number of inpatients with COVID still remains fairly static around c.50 pts (8%). ITU has seen an increase and remains challenged with over 100% occupancy. Decompression is regularly requested from the Midlands critical care network.</p> <p>The government has announced that it will require all health care workers by April to be vaccinated. All organisations have asked for guidance on this and exceptions. We are using internal command and control governance to start preparing ourselves for this legislation coming into effect.</p> <p>With a reduction in “red” attendances, we are reviewing our segregations within our Emergency Departments to function as single ED’s again. The need for red beds has also reduced and we are looking at alternative models to give us more amber capacity to improve patient flow.</p>

2. Alignment to our Vision <i>[indicate with an ‘X’ which Strategic Objective this paper supports]</i>						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">Our Patients</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Our People</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Our Population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>To be good or outstanding in everything that we do</td> <td>To cultivate and sustain happy, productive and engaged staff</td> <td>To work seamlessly with our partners to improve lives</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Our Patients	Our People	Our Population	To be good or outstanding in everything that we do	To cultivate and sustain happy, productive and engaged staff	To work seamlessly with our partners to improve lives
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3. Previous consideration <i>[where has this paper been previously discussed?]</i>

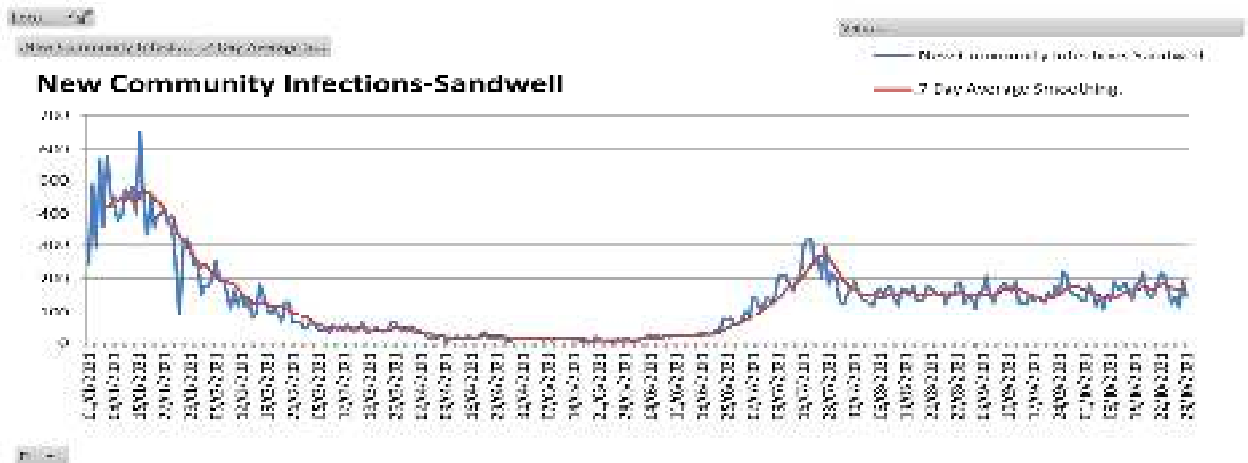
4. Recommendation(s)
The Board is asked to:
a. NOTE: the report
b. DISCUSS: the potential impact of the mandatory vaccination policy

5. Impact <i>[indicate with an ‘X’ which governance initiatives this matter relates to and where shown elaborate]</i>					
Trust Risk Register					
Board Assurance Framework	x	New SBAF risk on pandemic management refers			
Equality Impact Assessment	Is this required?	Y		N	X
Quality Impact Assessment	Is this required?	Y		N	X
					If ‘Y’ date completed
					If ‘Y’ date completed

SANDWELL AND WEST BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALS NHS TRUST
Report to the Public Trust Board November 2021
Gold update on COVID-19 position

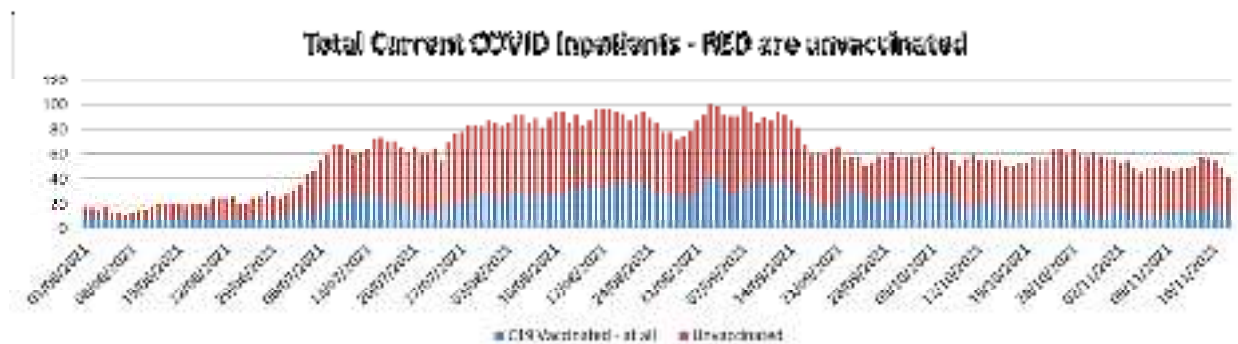
1. Community infection Rate

1.1 From the Graph below you will note a steady state position in community infection rates from within the Sandwell catchment area over the last 3 months.



2. Inpatients

The graph below shows we have maintained positive Covid inpatients for the last 4 weeks with a small drop off noted over the last 2 weeks, the overriding proportion of our inpatients remain unvaccinated.



3. Next steps

3.1 With a decline in the number of red beds we are reviewing our current inpatient arrangements at the Sandwell site. We are also reviewing the segregation of patients through the Sandwell ED. Proposals will be developed over the next few weeks

3.2 We have also purchased HEPA filters for all wards at sandwell and red wards and AGP areas at city site which should be with us in the next few weeks

4. Staff testing and vaccinations legislation

4.1 LAMP testing continues to be rolled out across the organisation which is a once weekly saliva based antigen test with higher degree of accuracy. The organisation continues to promote the use of LAMP testing as a preventative measure to prevent covid infection and transmission but is there more work to be done with only 51% of the organisation registered and using LAMP testing.

5. Vaccination

5.1 Our Vaccination programme continues, we are at 85% nationally for staff who are doubly vaccinated. Despite constant communication and a personalised approach this percentage is not increasing.

5.2 The covid booster programme commenced on the 27th September but uptake is slow and our current position is 33%.

5.3 The mandatory vaccine announcement was made on the 9th November. The Trust are still awaiting the guidance but in the meantime are planning on how this is rolled out across the organisation via our pandemic governance arrangements (Tactical and strategic command). The initial letter states that staff that have not been vaccinated require their first vaccine by February 2nd 2022 and their second vaccine by the end of March 2022. Medical exemptions will apply and this is part of the guidance we are expecting to receive

5.4 The flu campaign also commenced at the same time offering staff the chance to be vaccinated for both covid and Flu at the same time or via separate appointments. This was initially provided via the hub model at both city and Sandwell sites. There are now pop up clinics ongoing in both reception areas and peer vaccinator visits to the ward and service areas. The current position is 32%

5.5 The 12-15 year old programme at schools continues and will be completed by mid-December. Once this is completed we will recommence our community pop up clinics in partnership with public health

5.6 Well 16/17year olds are now being offered their second jab and the booster programme has opened to 40-49 year olds

6. Recommendations

6.1 Board is asked to:

- NOTE: the report
- DISCUSS: the potential impact of the mandatory vaccination policy

Liam Kennedy
Chief Operating Officer
25th November 2021

Melanie Roberts
Chief Nurse