

CoVid-19/ Winter update

Covering December 2020 to March 2021

Lorraine Sunduza – Chief Nurse

Steven Course – Chief Finance Office

Edwin Ndlovu Interim Chief Operating Officer

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Winter

What's worked

- Collaborative working – system level.
- Escalation plans – system level.
- Knowledge of CoVid 19 which has been incremental.
- Single Incident management structure to manage CoVid-19, EU Exit and Winter.
- Some of Winter schemes.

What has been challenging

- Maintaining full range of services
- Managing capacity on the back of IC outbreaks for Covid-19 and Non-CoVid-19 patients.
- Managing operations in lockdown –surges in demand esp MH.
- Managing the 2nd CoVid 19 wave has been harder.
- Supporting staff – Health and Wellbeing.
- Winter pressures schemes staffing delays
- Setting up Vaccinations programme staff, patients and public.

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Infection Prevention and Control

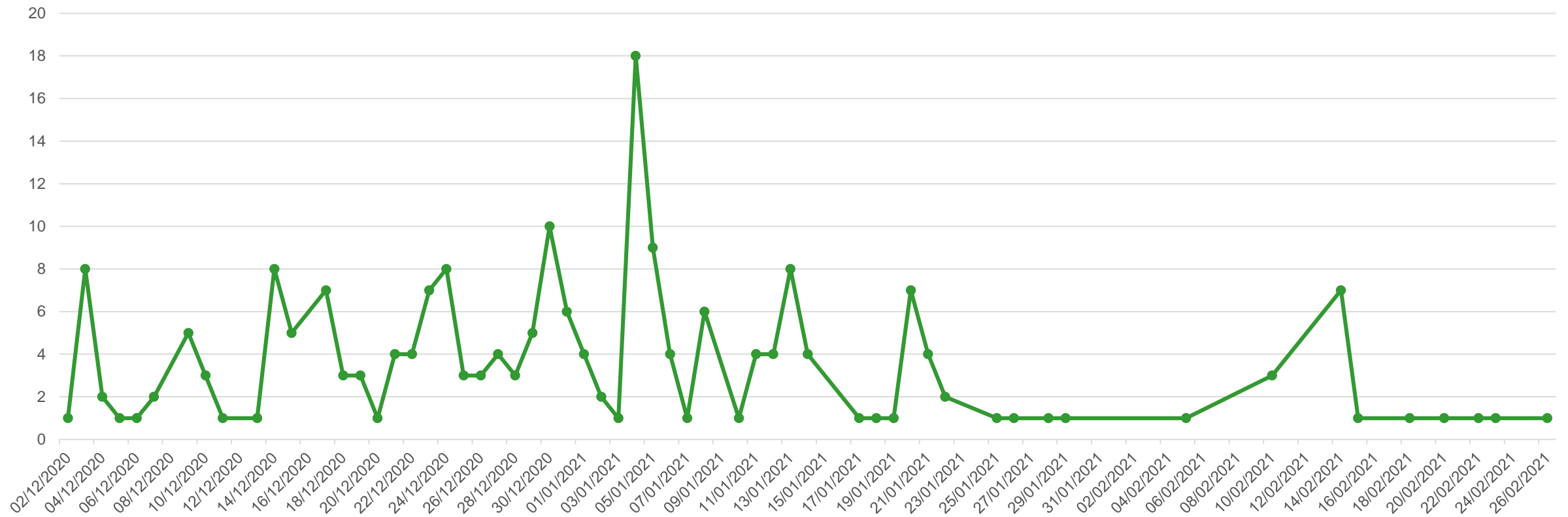
- December 2020 - A new variant strain of SARS-CoV-2 that contains a series of mutations detected in UK highly prevalent in London and southeast England.
- Based on these mutations, this variant strain has been predicted to potentially be more rapidly transmissible than other circulating strains of SARS-CoV-2. No evidence that this variant causes more severe illness or increased risk of death.
- Update of IPC board assurance framework.
- Discussed ELFT strategy for managing wards and outbreaks.
- Community transmission increase mirrored in inpatient wards increases
- London regional lead invited to visit service and advice
- PPE supply good
- Outbreak meeting for all outbreaks in the trust (2 or more linked cases)
- Regular communication on HANDS, SPACE and FACE.
- Healthcare Associated Infections have a root cause analysis
- Lessons learnt shared via the IPC committee and across the Trust

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Healthcare Associated Infections December 2020 – February 2021

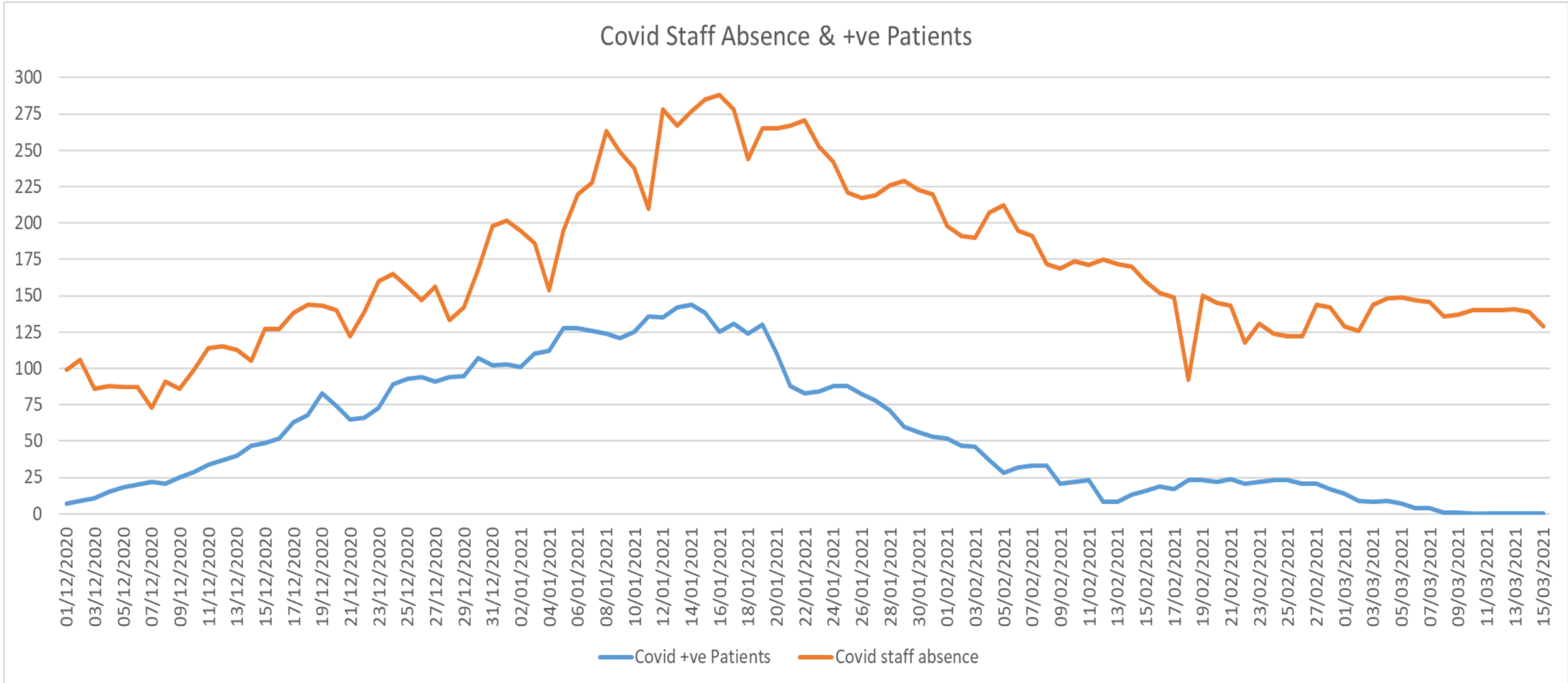


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Covid Staff Absence & +ve Patients



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COVID Vaccination – Staff and Community

- The ELFT COVID vaccination programme started January 2021 with over 70% of frontline staff have received one dose.
- Approximately 200 staff vaccinated per week.
- However there remains vaccination hesitancy among some staff group. . Communication plans in place
- However, there are concerns around low uptake in certain staff groups.
- Evaluating ELFT staff vaccinations enables us to track uptake, identify staff groups that are not taking up the offer and target initiatives to improve uptake.
- Inequalities in vaccine uptake by age, ethnicity and pay band have continued to decrease gradually
- Alert sent to Trust staff re safety of Astra Zeneca, media concerns of risks
- The Care Quality Commissioner (new Transitional Monitoring Approach) sought assurance about the safety of vaccination sites via a call with the Westfield Mass vaccination site staff and assurance readiness documentation send to NHSE/I.
- CQC verbally reported being assured. No formal report to be issued
- **Flu vaccination programme commenced in September 2020; current compliance for the Trust is 82% frontline staff**

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COVID Vaccination – Service Users

- All inpatients are been offered vaccinations since February 2021, High uptake over 70% vaccinated
- Local services working with primary care to consider vaccinating service users with Serious Mental Illness.
- The 5 ELFT run GP practices have been engaged in delivering the covid-19 vaccination. Either through Primary care Networks or GP Federations
- Practices with Care Homes (Caudwell, Leighton Road Surgery) have been administering the vaccines directly into the homes
- Health E1 also provide care directly into some Hostels and have directly immunised those patients on behalf of the Tower Hamlets GP Care Group - Over 7500 of 12,000 of the eligible patients have opted to have vaccine.
- Clinicians are telephoning vaccine hesitant patients and in the case of the Newham Transitional Practice had over 40% increase in acceptance of the vaccine when phoned by the practices Lead GP.
- Recently JVCI categorised homeless population as being cohort 6, therefore invited for 1st dose, eligible patients across Greenhouse Practice, Newham Transitional Practice and HealthE1 will change significantly.
- Greenhouse Practice from the 1st April 2021 will in-house all of its vaccinations and will combine with interventions which were seen to be successful as part of the flu campaign such as hot meals, clothing packs and canine health checks.

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Staff Testing

- Frontline staff have been supplied with Lateral Flow test kits
- They allow self testing at home with result in 20 minutes.
- If positive, stay off work, get a PCT test. If PCR test positive need to self isolate in line with government guidelines
- As of 10 March 2021 – 28 626 tests have been taken
- 196 positive (0.7%) of which 96 were positive PCR (48%)
- Drop in testing in February – impact of vaccinations
- Action plan created and communication increased

Staff Well being

- Focus on staff who are shielding, staff with Long CoVid in relation to support.
- Health and well-being hubs.
- Bank and agency staff support.
- £100 voucher as thank you to staff including bank.
- Risk assessments
- Parent, new starters, new mothers support sessions e.g. extra lessons to supplement home schooling.
- Day of reflection held on 23/03/2021

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Next Phase

- Co produce the next phase with staff and service users.
- Exit from national restrictions.
- Continue to focus on system partnership and the collective effort.
- Finances – clarity of current situation and potential future plans.
- Ensure our strategy is reflected in our plans as we evolve out of Covid-19

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