

<b>Subject:</b>	Board Meeting 27 January 2021: Progress Report on the response to the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic
<b>Author(s):</b>	Christina Coulombe Head of Infection Prevention and Control On behalf of Eddie Docherty Executive Lead for Healthcare Associated Infection
<b>Date:</b>	18 January 2021

### 1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the following paper is to provide the NHS Lanarkshire Board with an update progress report on the Infection Prevention and Control response to COVID-19 for the Board meeting, 27 January 2021.

### 2.0 SITUATION

NHS Lanarkshire continue to experience a considerable increase in suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 presenting to acute hospitals. In some cases, ongoing transmission of nosocomial infection in non-covid wards has been identified and wards closed temporarily to new admissions and transfers. Infection Prevention and control continue to support the strategies to prevent, identify and manage incidents involving cases of COVID-19.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, China. Clinical presentation may range from mild-to-moderate illness to pneumonia or severe acute respiratory infection. COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on 12 March 2020. Mainland Scotland and some islands are in lockdown with guidance to stay home, except for essential purposes. These restrictions will remain in place until at least mid-February 2021.

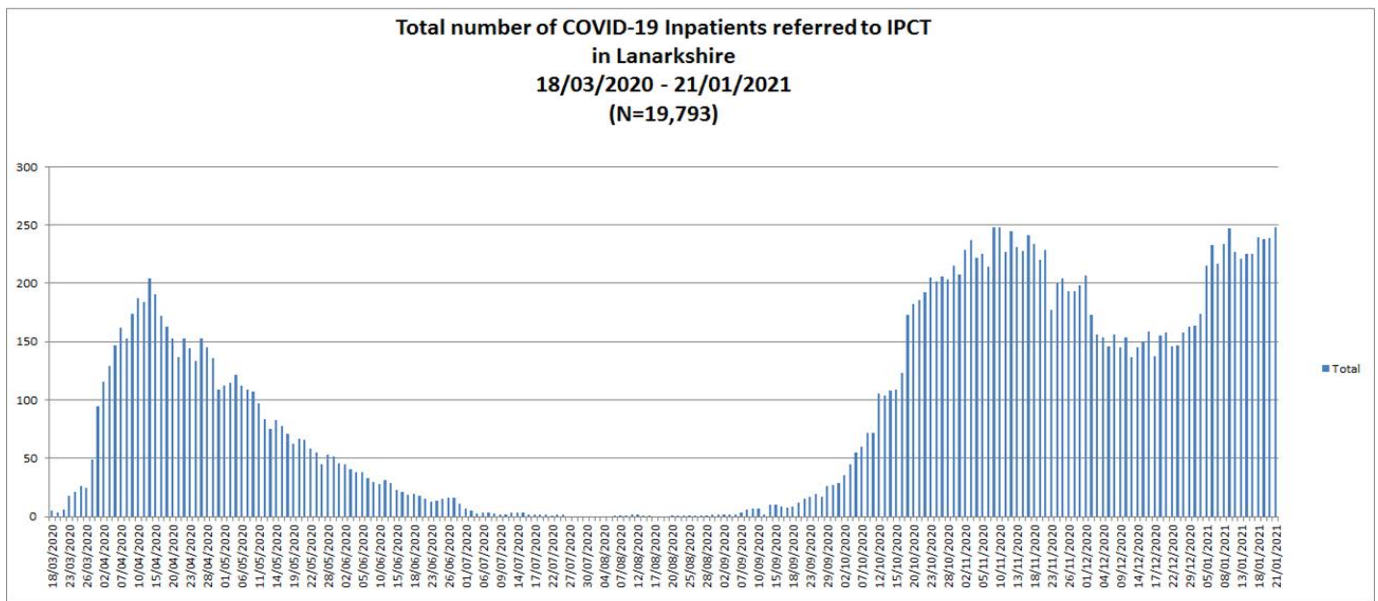
### 4.0 ASSESSMENT

#### COVID-19 Referrals

The greatest demands on the service continue to be patient contact tracing and outbreak management. The number of COVID-19 referrals to IPC has also increased steadily from October as demonstrated in Figure 1 below. This data clearly identifies the pressures on the team throughout the first and second wave of the pandemic and now the third.

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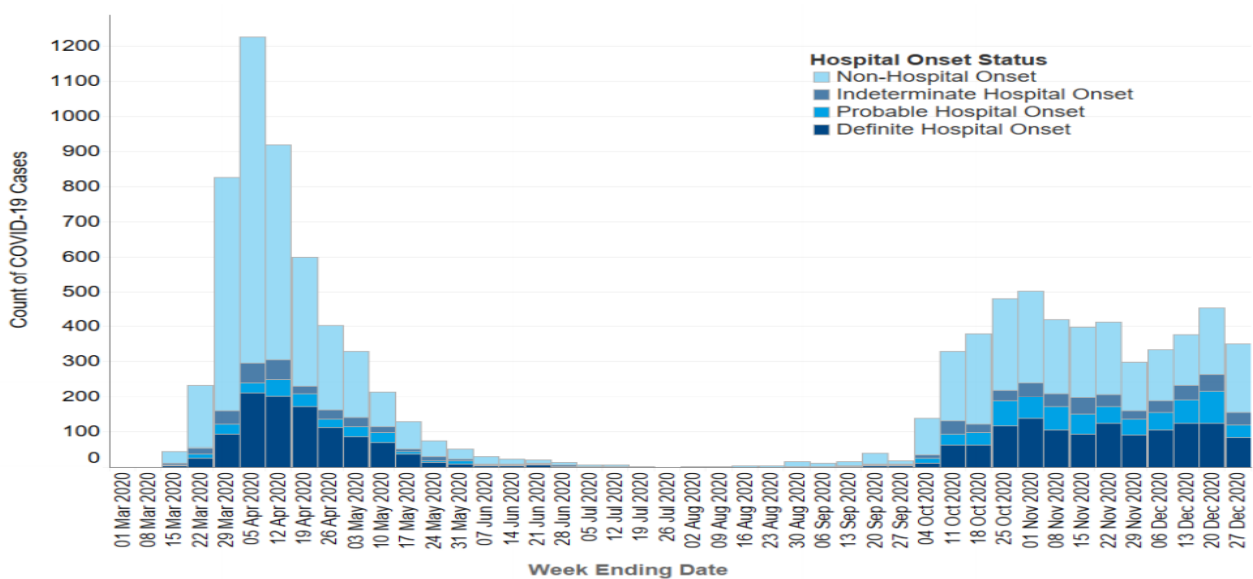
Figure 1: Total Number of COVID-19 inpatients referred to IPCT March 2020 to January 2021



### Hospital onset Infections

The epidemiological review and validation exercise for all positive COVID-19 cases continues to determine the number of hospital onset cases in relation to the total number reported overall. Figure 2 demonstrates the number of cases from March 2020 to 27 December 2020 for Scotland. The greatest number of hospital onset infections occurred during the first wave in the month of April and began to decrease thereafter and then increase again in the second wave in October. Data for January (third wave) is awaited.

Figure 2: Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases with first positive specimen taken during an inpatient stay, by onset status: week-ending 1 March to week-ending 27 December 2020



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Data on hospital onset cases by site is provided in Charts 1, 2 & 3. It is evident that the current pressure of the third wave has resulted in a substantial increase in hospital cases.

Chart 1

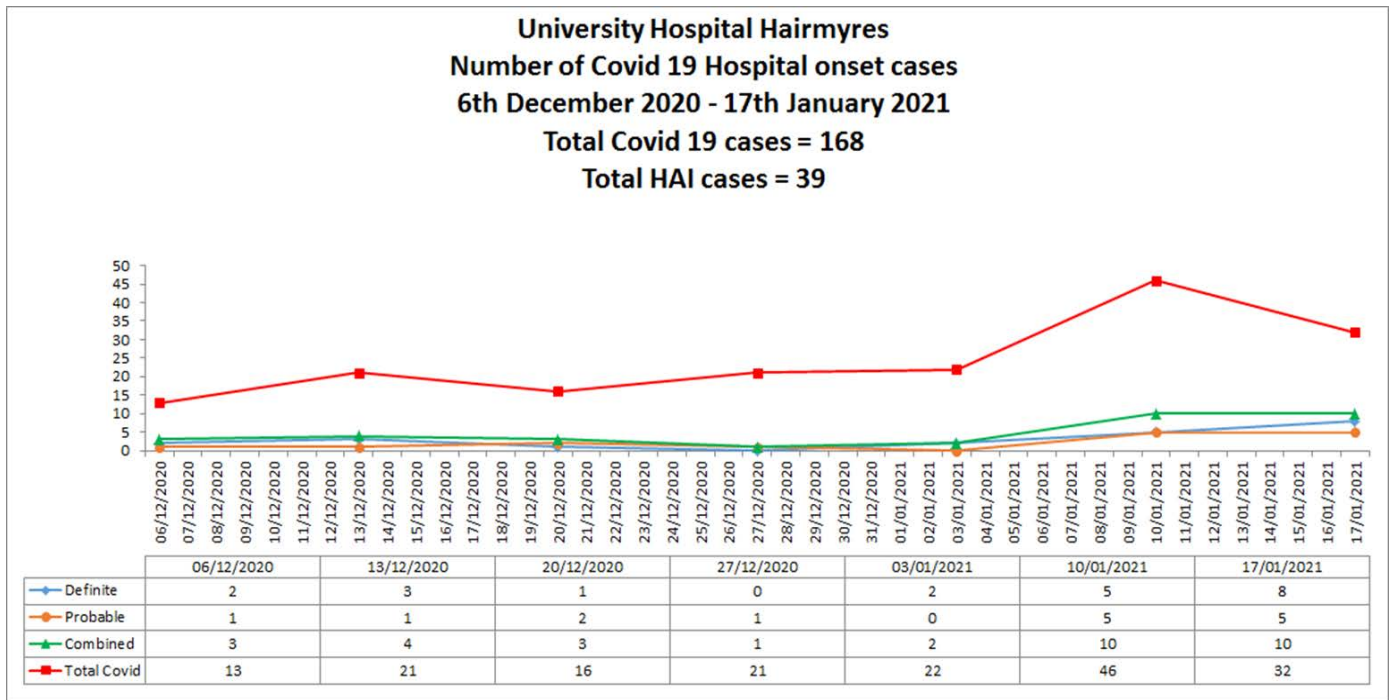


Chart 2

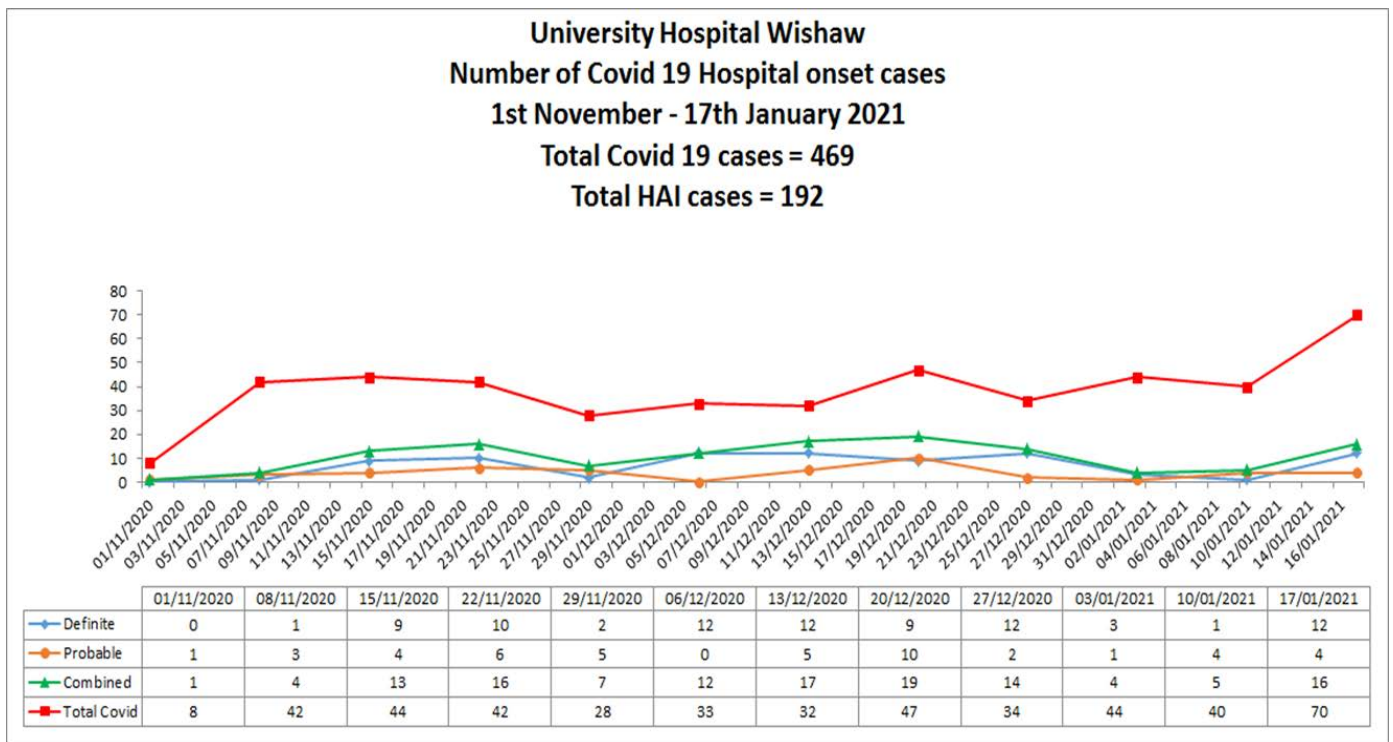
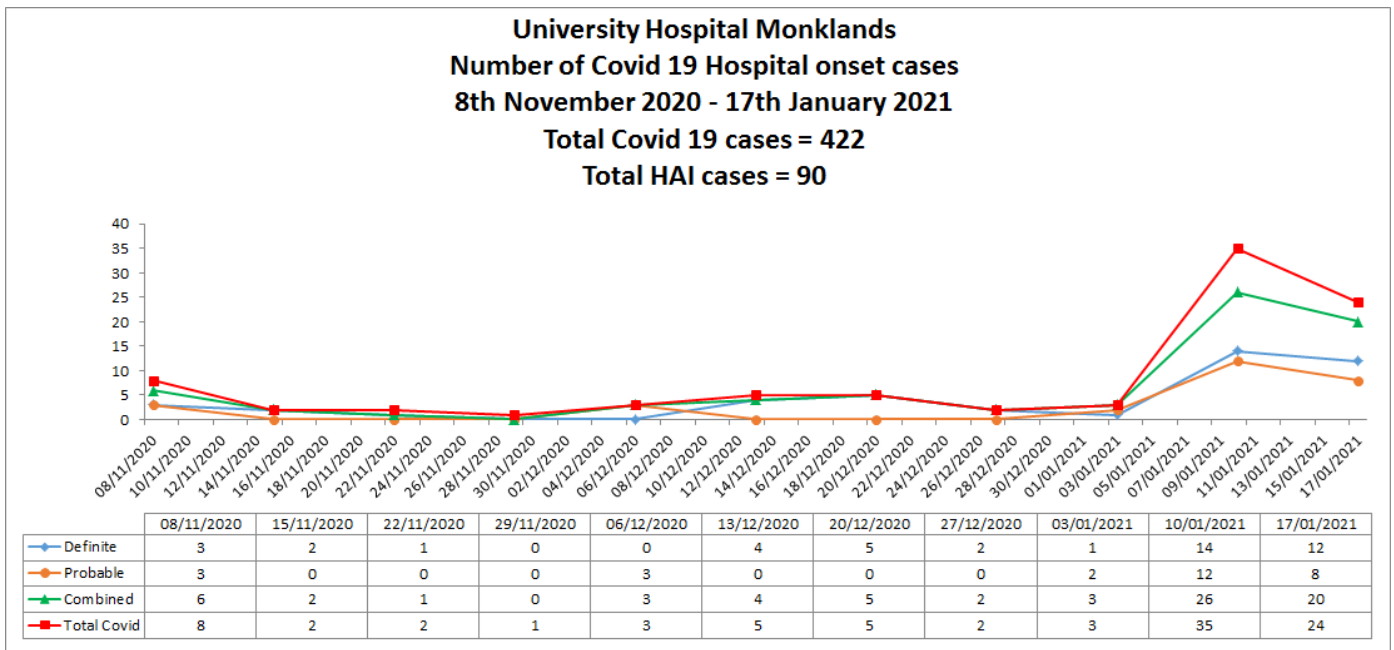


Chart 3



The prevalence in total cases in our acute sites, as demonstrated in the charts above, correlates with the historical and current community prevalence across Lanarkshire. UHW saw a higher incidence in hospital cases and nosocomial transmission during November and December while UHM is now seeing that same increase due to community prevalence in Coatbridge and Airdrie.

In terms of national data, Table 1 below demonstrates 2.0% of all cases in NHS Lanarkshire were probable and definite hospital onset cases; 0.6% and 1.4% respectively.

*Table 1: Number of COVID-19 cases, by onset status and NHS Board: Specimen dates up to 27 December 2020*

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NHS board	Total COVID-19 cases (n)	Non-hospital onset (n)	Indeterminate hospital onset cases (n)	Probable hospital onset cases (n)	Definite hospital onset cases (n)	Non-hospital onset (%)	Indeterminate hospital onset cases (%)	Probable hospital onset cases (%)	Definite hospital onset cases (%)
Ayrshire & Arran	8,949	500	60	113	205	5.6%	0.7%	1.3%	2.3%
Borders	1,436	88	9	16	50	6.1%	0.6%	1.1%	3.5%
Dumfries & Galloway	1,464	96	9	2	2	6.6%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%
Fife	6,013	322	18	14	145	5.4%	0.3%	0.2%	2.4%
Forth Valley	5,408	264	15	12	43	4.9%	0.3%	0.2%	0.8%
Golden Jubilee	15	7	4	2	2	-	-	-	-
Grampian	7,405	263	35	41	127	3.6%	0.5%	0.6%	1.7%
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	40,293	2,161	329	382	906	5.4%	0.8%	0.9%	2.2%
Highland	1,954	83	10	7	23	4.2%	0.5%	0.4%	1.2%
<b>Lanarkshire</b>	<b>23,340</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
Lothian	17,894	850	98	163	342	4.7%	0.5%	0.9%	1.9%
Orkney	36	4	0	0	0	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Shetland	94	9	0	0	0	9.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Tayside	7,935	428	59	64	142	5.4%	0.7%	0.8%	1.8%
Western Isles	94	8	0	0	0	8.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>122,330</b>	<b>6,114</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

These hospital onset cases triggered further investigation and in some instances temporary restrictions and closures. National guidance has been updated a number of times since the last report. Guidance is now available via the IPC Addendums for the Acute Settings, Care Homes and Community Health and Care Settings. COVID Outbreak Management is now also available via the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual.

### Outbreak and Incident Overview

There is a significant number of Problem Assessment Groups and Incident Management Team meetings to support outbreaks of COVID-19 in both our patient and staff populations. These outbreaks are protracted due to the number of days areas have required to maintain restrictions. In total, there has been 82 outbreaks and clusters reported in non-COVID wards involving patients and staff. An increase in cases of COVID-19 in our hospitals has been evident from mid-September 2020 and increased exponentially throughout October to December 2020. UHW experienced an unprecedented increase in closed wards during November and December 2020. A whole systems approach to improvement and patient safety was undertaken to improve patient safety and outcomes. A high level report has been submitted to HQAIC.

### 5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- NHSL Board to note report and derive assurance from the SBAR.

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