

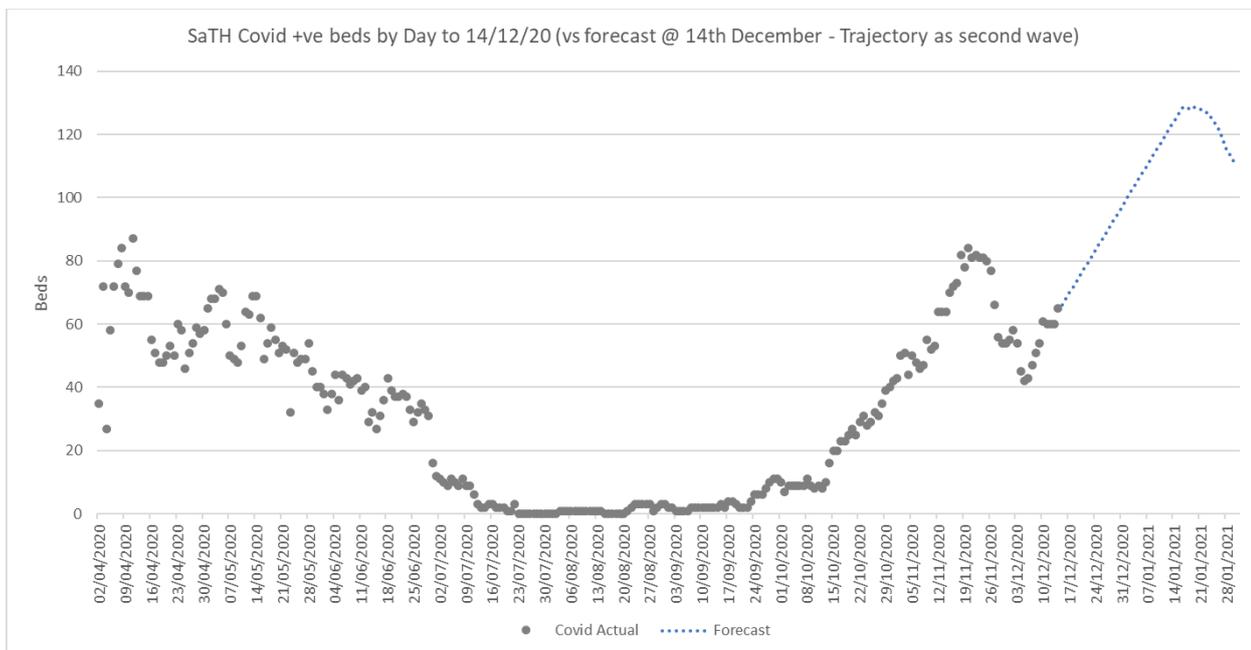
Board of Directors

Briefing Paper – COVID

During November, Covid levels rose significantly, and the Trust saw the highest levels of positive cases since the pandemic began. Moreover, the level of impact has been compounded by Covid ‘contacts’ and beds lost due to outbreaks (ie where patients are identified as positive or in contact with positive cases during their stay); Trusts across the UK have been similarly affected as the level of asymptomatic cases rises.

The national lockdown in England made some difference and towards the end of November and into early December, positive case numbers slowly decreased. However, as at 16th December, evidence is showing that a slight rise is beginning once again (again similar to a number of other locations), with the level at the Royal Shrewsbury site rising more than at the Princess Royal site at Telford.

It is not known at this stage what local, regional or national changes will be brought into force ahead of Christmas or immediately afterwards, but local forecasts are being prepared in order that the trust has contingency plans for a range of scenarios. The graph below contains the latest numbers and a potential ‘straight line’ (unmitigated) rise from the current position.



SATH, together with all local health and social care system partners as well as in liaison with regional teams, is working on actions which could be introduced in the event of further Covid increases after Christmas.