

# Re-Audit on staff preparedness and confidence on a Child and Adolescent mental ward during the COVID 19 Pandemic, comparisons between the first and second waves

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## Background

COVID-19 made a significant impact on the provision of healthcare services globally. In addition to this, all caring environments became a high-risk environment for virus transmission. One in four COVID cases are thought to have resulted from in hospital transmission, with some hospitals recording rates greater than one in three. As a result, healthcare environments, including CAMHS wards have had to adapt and change.

## Aim

- To assess how perceived preparedness by staff on a CAMHS ward for the COVID-19 pandemic changed between the first and third waves of COVID in the UK
- To evaluate areas requiring further guidance to staff pandemic preparedness.

## Methods

- Between the 29th of April and the 5th of May 2020, a total of 22 members of staff responded to our first survey
- Re-audit of the same ward during the third wave occurred between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 yielding 17 respondents
- Utilising a 10-point likert scale, staff rated their assessment of how prepared the ward was for COVID-19.
- On a five-point likert scale from 0 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), staff assessed various aspects of the ward's COVID preparedness, demonstrated in Table 3.

Table 3: Questions asked of staff and weighted mean average response, comparing results from first and second wave

Question	Wave 1 Weighted average response (1=Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly agree)	Wave 3 Weighted average response (1=Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly agree)	Difference (Wave 3 average - Wave 1 average)
I know how to take a COVID swab and am confident doing as such	2.84	4.29	1.44
I am aware of the new guidance on CPR in suspected and confirmed COVID positive patients	3.24	4.06	0.82
There are clear COVID guidelines on the ward	3.00	3.76	0.76
The ward COVID guidelines are accessible	3.41	3.76	0.36
I feel confident screening of COVID and understand what is expected of me	3.64	3.88	0.25
If a patient was found to have COVID, I am confident there is a procedure in place to protect members of staff	3.18	3.41	0.23
I know how/where to access the ward PPE (personal protective equipment) guidance for staff treating COVID positive patients	4.10	4.29	0.20
I have been provided with adequate guidance on donning and doffing PPE (personal protective equipment)	3.43	3.63	0.20
I am aware of PPE (personal protective equipment) guidance for COVID patients and what I need to wear when providing care to COVID patients	4.00	4.18	0.18
My work has been impacted by COVID	4.18	4.29	0.11
There is a clear screening strategy for COVID on the ward	3.64	3.59	-0.05
I know who to contact if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID on the ward	3.77	3.71	-0.07
I feel confident donning and doffing PPE (personal protective equipment) safely	3.90	3.81	-0.09
If a patient was found to have COVID, I am confident there is a procedure in place to protect other patients	3.91	3.76	-0.14
There is a clear plan on the ward for when a patient is identified as potentially having COVID	4.05	3.82	-0.22
I am familiar with the symptoms of COVID	4.52	4.29	-0.23
I know who to contact with COVID related questions	3.86	3.53	-0.33
Providing further training and guidance on COVID would help me in my day-to-day role	3.91	3.53	-0.38

Responder ward role, third wave	Count	Responder ward role, first wave	Count
Occupational therapist	1	Doctor (Consultant)	1
Occupational Therapy Assistant	1	Ward Manager	1
Doctor (Trainee)	1	Admin	1
Family Therapist	1	Bank Nurse	1
Ward Clerk	1	Family Therapist	1
Admin	1	Aspirant Nurse	1
Regular HCA	4	Occupational Therapy Assistant	1
Substantive Nurse	7	Doctor (Trainee)	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>	Substantive Nurse	6
		Regular HCA	6
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>22</b>

## Results

- Table 1 and 2 outlines respondents' roles on the ward
- Table 3 provides the average response of ward staff to survey questions, ranked by areas of improvement from first wave
- The ward was perceived as underprepared for COVID-19, rated as 5 out of 10 in terms of overall preparedness, from 3.91 indicating improvement.
- Areas of improvement from the ward include knowledge on how to take a swab, CPR guidance awareness, awareness of guidance and accessibility of guidance
- Areas that had declined since the first audit included points of contact, awareness of COVID symptoms, understanding of plans for COVID

## Discussion

- The survey highlighted that staff members were aware of the symptoms of COVID, and their work was significantly impacted by it, however things on the ward had improved since our last audit
- Overall perception of the ward had improved, as had crucial aspect of COVID care
- Significantly, there were areas of deterioration, but deterioration in these areas was not as great as the advancement made in areas of progress
- Crucially, staff now had neutral or better responses to all question prompts, indicating that the ward has improved since guidance had been produced and disseminated

## Conclusions

- While improvements have been made, further training, education and guidance pertaining to COVID and COVID management is required