

# Audit on Staff Preparedness and Confidence on a Child and Adolescent Mental Ward During The COVID-19 Pandemic

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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 the perceived preparedness by staff on a CAMHS ward for the COVID-19 pandemic
- 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 survey, staff breakdown is shown in table 1.
- 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 2.

Table 1: Respondents by role

Responder Ward Role	
Substantive Nurse	6
Regular HCA	6
Other (please specify)	5
Doctor (Trainee)	3
Doctor (Consultant)	1
Bank Nurse	1
Total	22

Table 2: Questions asked of staff and weighted mean average response

Question	Weighted average response (1=Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly agree)
I know how to take a COVID swab and am confident doing as such	2.84
There are clear COVID guidelines on the ward	3.00
If a patient was found to have COVID, I am confident there is a procedure in place to protect members of staff	3.18
I am aware of the new guidance on CPR in suspected and confirmed COVID positive patients	3.24
The ward COVID guidelines are accessible	3.41
I have been provided with adequate guidance on donning and doffing PPE (personal protective equipment)	3.43
There is a clear screening strategy for COVID on the ward	3.64
I feel confident screening of COVID and understand what is expected of me	3.64
I know who to contact if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID on the ward	3.77
I know who to contact with COVID related questions	3.86
I feel confident donning and doffing PPE (personal protective equipment) safely	3.90
If a patient was found to have COVID, I am confident there is a procedure in place to protect other patients	3.91
Providing further training and guidance on COVID would help me in my day-to-day role	3.91
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
There is a clear plan on the ward for when a patient is identified as potentially having COVID	4.05
I know how/where to access the ward PPE (personal protective equipment) guidance for staff treating COVID positive patients	4.10
My work has been impacted by COVID	4.18
I am familiar with the symptoms of COVID	4.52

## Results

- Table 1 outlines respondents roles on the ward
- Table 2 provides the average response of ward staff to survey questions
- The ward was overall perceived as underprepared for COVID-19, rated as 3.91 out of 10 in terms of overall preparedness.
- Areas of weakness for the ward included knowledge on how to take a COVID swab, awareness on guidelines on COVID and confidence in COVID procedures.
- Areas of strength for the ward included recognition of COVID symptoms and access to PPE, as well as plans and procedures for managing COVID patients

## Discussion

- The survey highlighted that staff members were aware of the symptoms of COVID, and their work was significantly impacted by it
- Staff members felt agreed on having the knowledge on use and access to PPE
- Significantly, staff agreed that there was a clear plan for handling COVID positive patients
- Nevertheless, staff desired further training, were less certain on guideline accessibility and did not feel there were clear guidelines
- Importantly, staff did not feel able to take a COVID swab and were not confident in doing as such

## Conclusions

- Further training, education and guidance pertaining to COVID and COVID management is required
- Since the survey, staff have been provided with guidance and training relating to ward COVID procedures, management of COVID and training has been provided.