

Impact of COVID-19 and the third wave on Southampton

Following the first peak of COVID-19, NHS services in Southampton have either been restored to original methods of access or with the use of digital and telephone access continuing where required to maintain infection control and social distancing requirements.

While, at the time of writing, the number of patients with confirmed COVID-19 in critical care beds at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust is decreasing, the pressure on acute services locally and across the country remains very high.

The number of patients waiting over 52 weeks and total waiting list size levels had stabilised prior to the third wave of COVID-19. However, non-urgent elective activity ceased during January and February (urgent and cancer procedures were maintained) and the number of patients waiting over 52 weeks, and the total list size, has risen further.

Cancer capacity has remained fully restored. Inpatient elective, MRI and CT activity levels have all been maintained at 80% of historic levels across Hampshire and Isle of Wight, even during the third wave. Two week wait referrals are now at 96% of previous levels and we have arranged extra capacity to see these patients.

The following page includes information covering the COVID-19 period for the whole Hampshire and Isle of Wight area covering NHS 111 and inpatient/discharge data.

GP practices in the city continue to work hard to safely deliver care to our population. The total number of appointments in primary care in Southampton is above pre-COVID levels. We have seen a significant increase in appointments by phone or online (e.g. video conference), but face-to-face appointments remain available to patients if clinically necessary. The data below indicates the change in appointment types in Southampton using the most recent data available to us:

Appointment type	Nov-19		Nov-20	
	Number	%	Number	%
Face-to-Face	91874	77%	65186	49%
Home Visit	779	1%	615	0%
Telephone	20402	17%	46986	36%
Unknown	4179	3%	2410	2%
Video Conference/Online	297	0%	1009	1%
e-consult	2229	2%	15822	12%
Total	119760		132028	

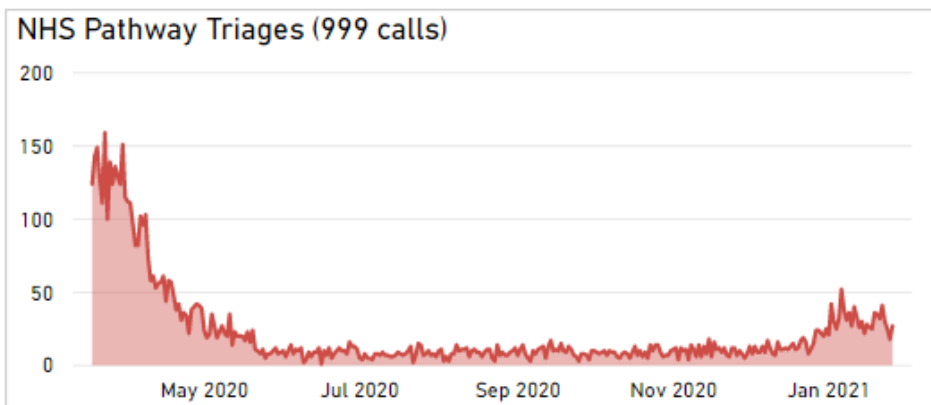
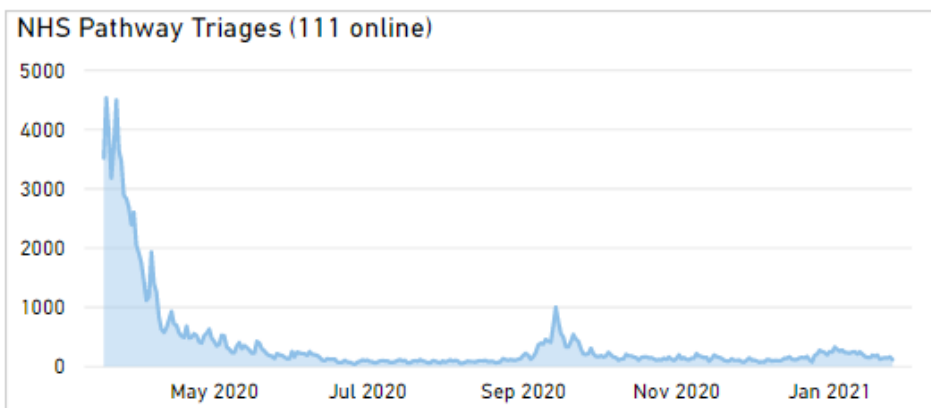
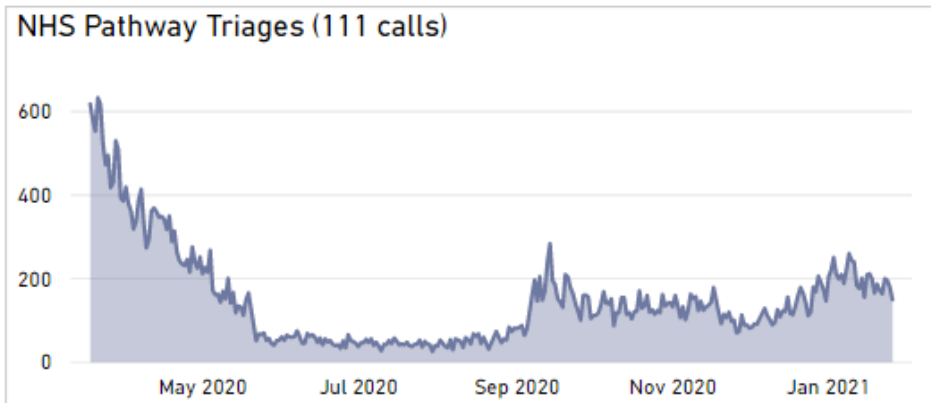
When contacting primary care, patients may be asked to discuss their conditions over the phone or online first to assess what would be most appropriate for them. Patients that do visit are asked to avoid waiting rooms or queuing and arrive at the time of the appointment. They are also asked to wear a mask, wash their hands before arriving and to socially distance. Patients are able to access their GP by phoning or contacting them online to arrange to speak to a GP or nurse over the phone or via video link as soon as possible.

Since December primary care in Southampton has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. This amazing achievement is the result of a massive amount of hard work and careful coordination by NHS teams, backed up by an army of volunteers who have given vital support.

We are hugely grateful for the support NHS services and staff in Southampton have received from patients and volunteers. Thank you.

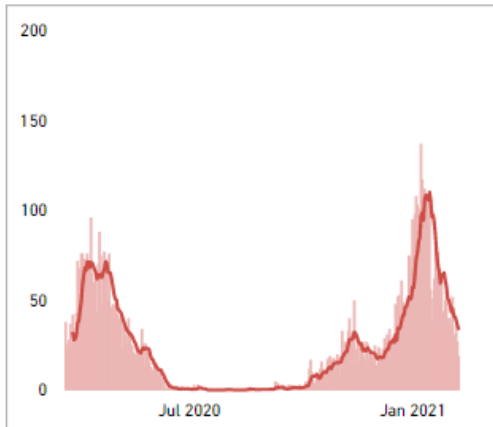
Stephanie Ramsey
Managing Director, NHS Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group

The following graphs show the number of NHS 111 calls, NHS 111 online contacts and 999 calls with potential COVID-19 symptoms across Hampshire and Isle of Wight:

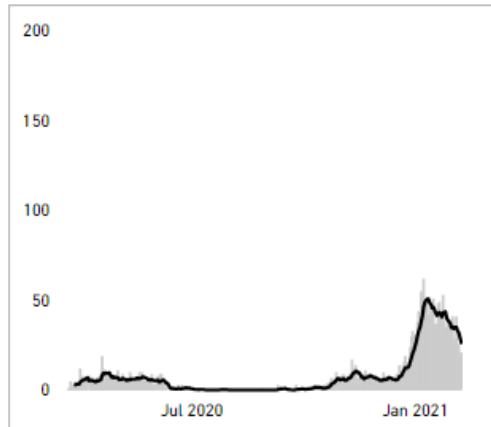


The following graphs show the number of inpatients diagnosed with COVID-19, the number admitted with COVID-19, the number admitted with suspected COVID-19 and the number of patients with COVID-19 discharged. The third wave of COVID-19 saw a marked increase in case numbers, hospital admissions, general bed use and ITU bed use. At the peak of this wave bed use was more than double that of wave one, and currently (9 February, 2021) is still 1.8 times the peak of wave one.

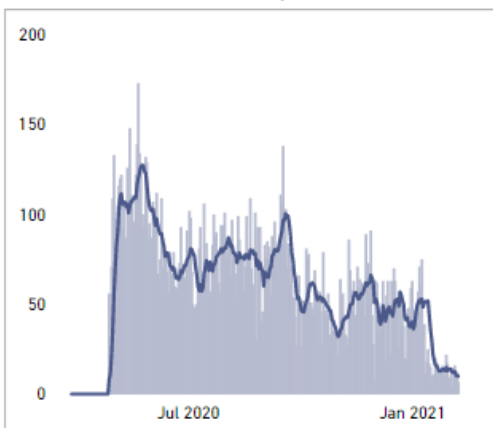
Inpatients Diagnosed with Covid-19



Patients Admitted with Covid-19



Patients Admitted with Suspected Covid-19



Covid-19 Discharges

