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**From:** Goodall, Andrew (HSS - DG - NHS Wales Chief Executive) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1517E328CD7243EC86A25B848596A381-GOODALL, AN]  
**Sent:** 15/12/2020 17:03:14  
**To:** Vaughan Gething (Ministerial) [vaughan.ething@gov.wales]; PS Minister Health & Social Services [psmhss@gov.wales]; Jenkins, Clare (OFM - Special Adviser) [clare.jenkins010@gov.wales]; PS Deputy Minister Health & Social Services [psdmhss@gov.wales]; PS Minister Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language [psmmhwwl@gov.wales]; PS FirstMinister [ps.firstminister@gov.wales]; Runeckles, Jane (OFM - Special Adviser) [jane.runeckles@gov.wales]; Brindley, Madeleine (OFM - Special Adviser) [madeleine.brindley@gov.wales]; Morgan, Shan (PSG - Permanent Secretary's Office) [shan.morgan@gov.wales]; Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director) [reg.kilpatrick@gov.wales]; Atherton, Frank (HSS - Chief Medical Officer) [frank.atherton@gov.wales]; Jones, Chris (HSS-DPH-Population Healthcare) [chris.jones@gov.wales]; Sallows, Andrew (HSS - Delivery & Performance) [andrew.sallows@gov.wales]; Dean, Simon (HSS - Office of the DG - NHS Wales Chief Executive) [simon.dean2@gov.wales]; PS to DG for Health and Social Services Chief Executive NHS Wales [pstodgforhsscenhswales@gov.wales]  
**Subject:** NHS capacity update

Minister – update for 15.12.

I had NHS Executive Board earlier – I know you will have seen other correspondence emerging today reinforcing clinical concerns about where current pressures will take us in respect of prevalence and turn of the year. The CEs were very much in line with the views I have expressed over the last few days on the daily capacity reports and others in that the system tone has changed significantly even since last week and the contact you and I had with the NHS just last Wednesday/Thursday – this is simply the fast speed and visibility of prevalence and impact – including the reflection that pressures felt very different from last weekend into this week; this is even before we look ahead at how covid patients in beds will continue to increase into January and into the NHS normal difficult period. They emphasised the workforce absences as also being a key change in concerns over the last month.

Today we had 19/20 hospital sites at levels 3 or 4, 12 at level 4 – but system performance measures all worse than last December. They are now expressing that concerns are high about the available capacity and consequences over into the new year, but more so into January. I think they are also reviewing the daily prevalence and hospital admission rates and were similarly concerned about the change that has materialised as a more exponential trend over recent days – the further increase in the PHW calculation of R rate at 1.56 and doubling now every 9 days has increased anxiety and system resilience. They have indicated strong concern and support for other actions as well as confirming they are respectively using the choices framework for local actions.

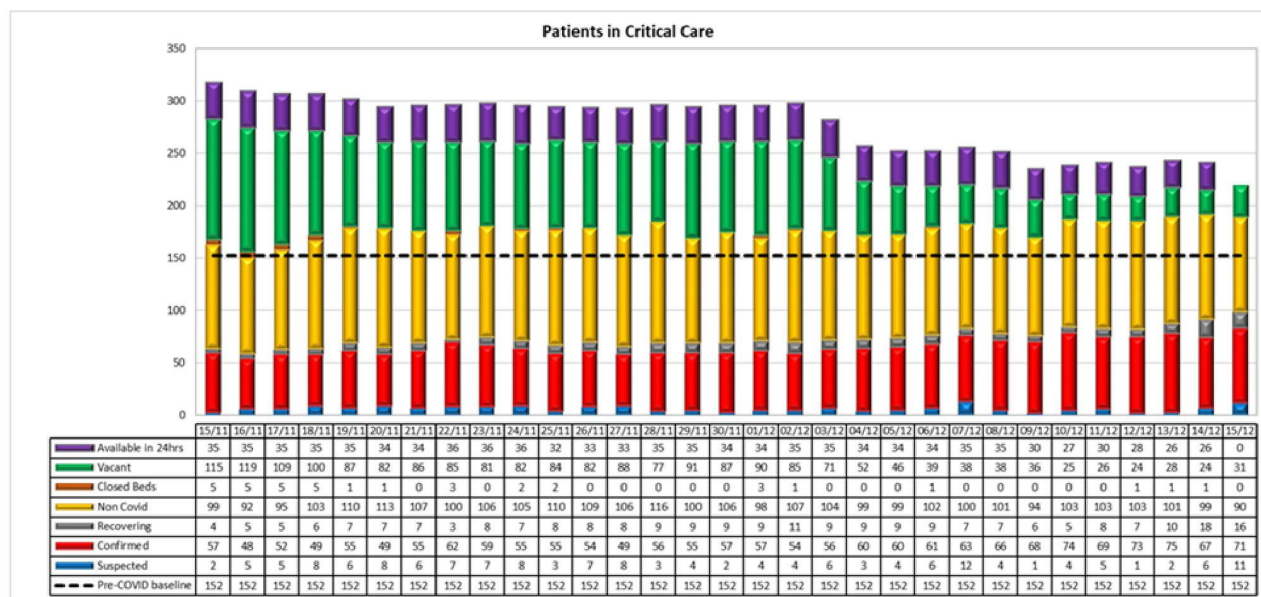
- 3/6 recent days have had changes in daily totals >100 that has led to much greater concern. Yesterday's significant growth would have had some element of reconciling confirmed cases from weekend, but nevertheless the picture different and of concern for the last week. The number of covid-related patients has gone up by +19 overnight to 2143. This is 17% (305) more than same point last week and a visible growth in the weekly trend. It is the highest reported number of covid-related patients in hospital beds.
- The number of confirmed cases has gone up by +8 to 1374 – this is 289 (27%) more than last Tuesday. This is the highest on record for confirmed patients and a very material shift in the weekly trend from previous weeks.
- The number of covid-related patients in critical care has now increased visibly to 98 (+7 overnight) – this is the highest number of covid-related critical care patients during this second wave. This is 21 (27%) from last Tuesday and evidence that we need to be expecting a conversion of higher hospital admissions into critical care units across Wales. The overall number of patients in critical care is 188, 36 above the normal capacity of

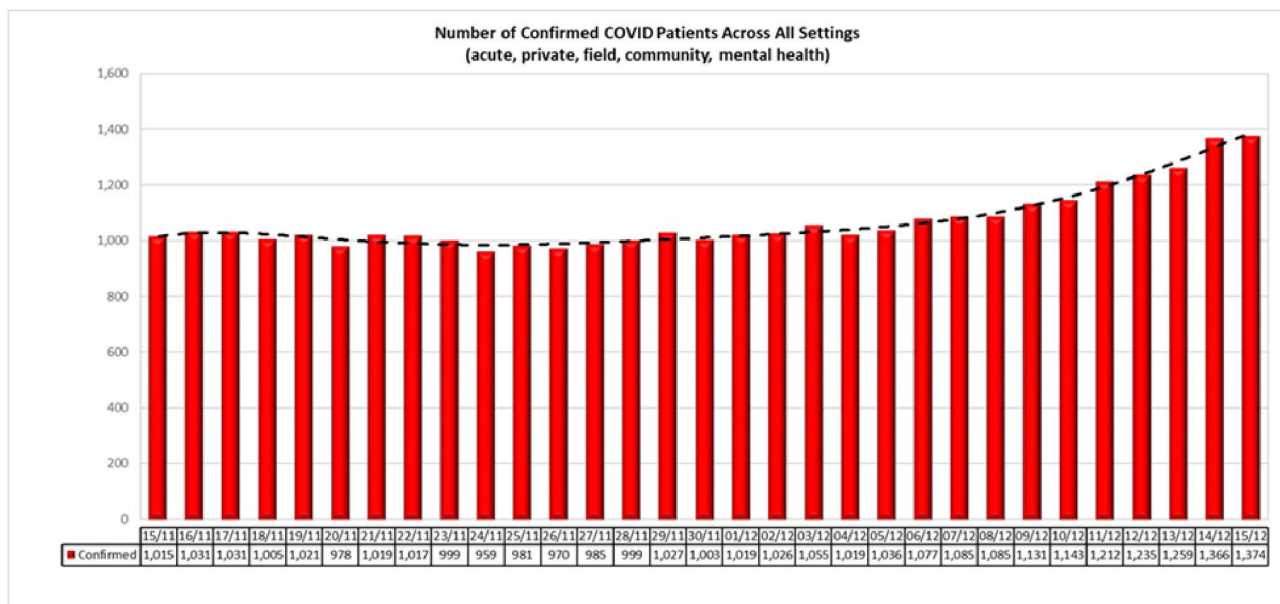
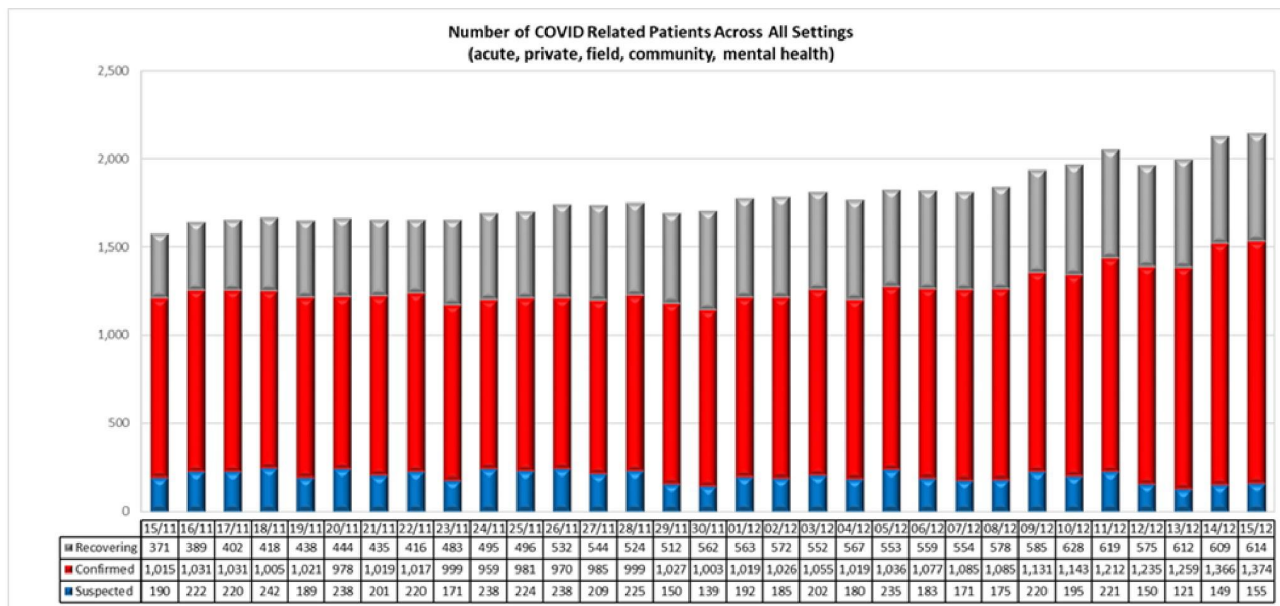
152. You will have seen the Intensive Care Society correspondence from Sunday night, and some of the front line clinician reflections this week. This area has been under consistent pressure – covid and non-covid – throughout the pandemic response. There are ongoing examples of lost critical care workforce due to covid – you will note the critical care beds graph below shows less opportunity short term to open extra critical care capacity.

The tables below show a comparison of key metrics for yesterday and today and today and the same day last week.

		Critical Care (CC) Beds			Total Beds		
		Current Day	Previous Day	Difference	Current Day	Previous Day	Difference
		15-Dec-20	14-Dec-20		15-Dec-20	14-Dec-20	
Number of available staffed beds	In critical care environment	172	167	5			
	Outside critical care environment	21	22	-1			
	Specialist critical care environment	26	26	0			
Number of closed beds		-	1	-1			
Total number of critical care beds		219	214	5			
Number of COVID-19 patients in occupied beds	Suspected	11	6	5	155	149	6
	Confirmed	71	67	4	1,374	1,366	8
	Recovering	16	18	-2	614	609	5
Total number of COVID-19 occupied beds		98	91	7	2,143	2,124	19
Number of non COVID-19 occupied beds		90	99	-9	5,804	5,816	-12
% critical care beds occupied		86%	89%	-3%			
% critical care beds occupied COVID-19 related patients		45%	43%	2%			
Number of unoccupied critical care beds		31	24	7			

	Number of COVID-19 patients in occupied beds	
	Critical care (CC) Beds	Total Beds
Current Day	98	2,143
Same Day Prev Week	77	1,838
<b>Difference</b>	<b>21 (27%)</b>	<b>305 (17%)</b>
Current Day	98	2,143
Highest Prev Day	164	2,143
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-66 (-40%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>





Dr Andrew Goodall CBE

Director General Health and Social Services/ NHS Wales Chief Executive

Health and Social Services Group

Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru

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**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

E-mail/E-bost : [Andrew.Goodall@gov.wales](mailto:Andrew.Goodall@gov.wales)