

## Board of Directors (in Private)

### Item 2.1

**Subject:** IPC BAF  
**Date of Meeting:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
**Presented by:** Dr Raphael Perry – Medical Director/DIPC  
**Purpose of Report:** For Noting

BAF Reference	Impact on BAF
BAF 1	Assurance regarding IPC measures in place.

Level of assurance					
√	<b>Acceptable assurance</b> Controls are suitably designed, with evidence of them being consistently applied and effective in practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Partial assurance</b> Controls are still maturing – evidence shows that further action is required to improve their effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Low assurance</b> Evidence indicates poor effectiveness of controls

### 1. Executive Summary

The Covid 19 pandemic led to a review of all IPC measures with strengthening of IPC processes. The monitoring of measures has been significantly intensified to help manage nosocomial out breaks in line with national guidance

NHSE has also developed a board assurance framework for IPC. The initial BAF was first presented at the May 2020 Board of Directors meeting and updates included at subsequent meetings.

Covid IPC guidance has been sequentially revised, and measures reduced or reintroduced in line with the incidence of infection. From November 2022 there was a substantial change to include all respiratory viruses.

The new BAF is attached with substantial changes highlighted. The update confirms that the IPC BAF is being managed proactively and any gaps from the latest update will be monitored and managed.

## **2. Background**

The Board of Directors receives a quarterly report and regular updates from the infection prevention and control team. This includes information on alert organisms, outbreaks, cleanliness standards and audit information.

NHS England have developed the Infection Prevention and control board assurance framework to support all healthcare providers to effectively self-assess their compliance with PHE and other COVID-19 related infection prevention and control guidance and to identify risks. The framework can be used to assure the Trust by assessing measures in line with current guidance. It can be used to provide evidence and as an improvement tool to optimise actions and interventions.

There have been various revisions and updates with some changes to previous versions. The latest version encompasses all respiratory viruses. The infection prevention team updated the framework to reflect these changes and most actions are completed.

Covid 19 prevalence has been stable for many months with levels in the community around that of August 2020 after the release of the first period of lockdown. There has been no surge over the winter months. The infections are generally picked up by testing symptomatic inpatients or by screening urgent and emergency admissions. Hospitalisation specifically for treatment of Covid 19 is uncommon though there remains a pressure on hospital beds with isolation and cohorting of positive patients. There is no pressure on critical care low mortality from Covid 19 remains low.

Influenza numbers have increased and there has been a surge of RSV in children over the early winter.

The processes in place to keep patients and staff safe and prevent cross infection continue when cases occur and there have been two Covid 19 outbreaks in small numbers over the winter.

## **3. IPC BAF**

This further update to guidance has been released to address wider IPC and not just focussing on Covid 19. This extensive update/change of emphasis has been addressed by the IPC team and Silver Command.

The latest version, V1.11, is attached with the updates from the previous version highlighted.

## **4. Conclusion**

The IPC BAF is being managed proactively and any gaps from the latest update will be monitored and managed.

## **5. Recommendation**

The Board of Directors is asked to note the contents of the report and the accompanying IPC BAF.