



Limerick City & County
Council Briefing

Colette Cowan, CEO
UL Hospitals Group
22nd March 2021



Working together, caring for you

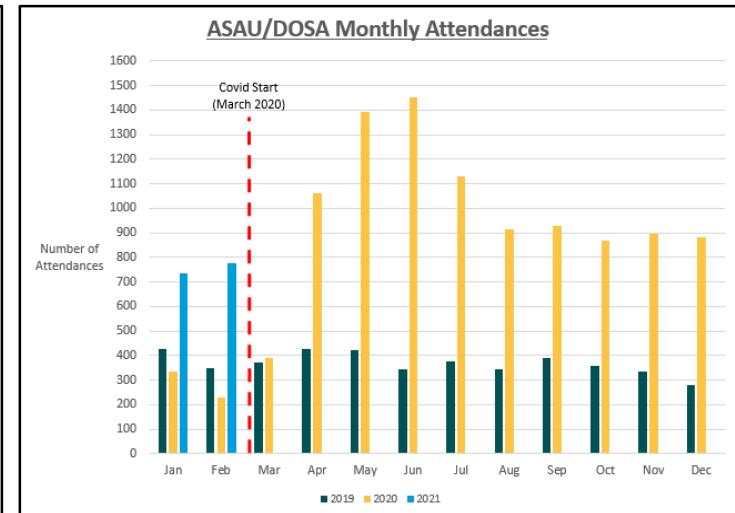
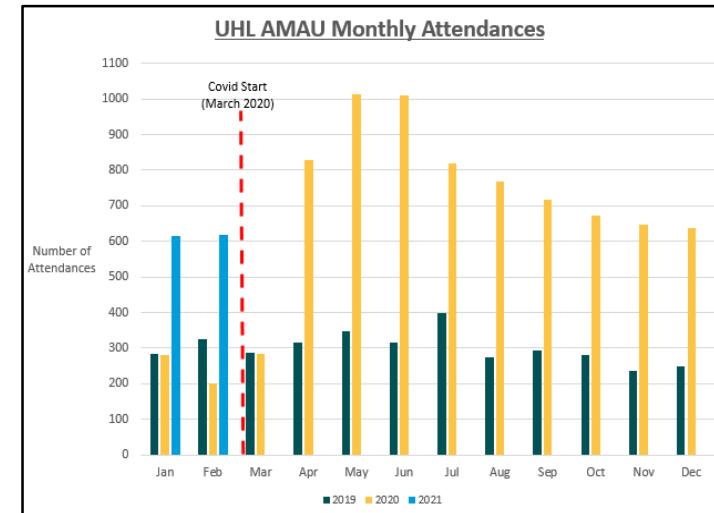
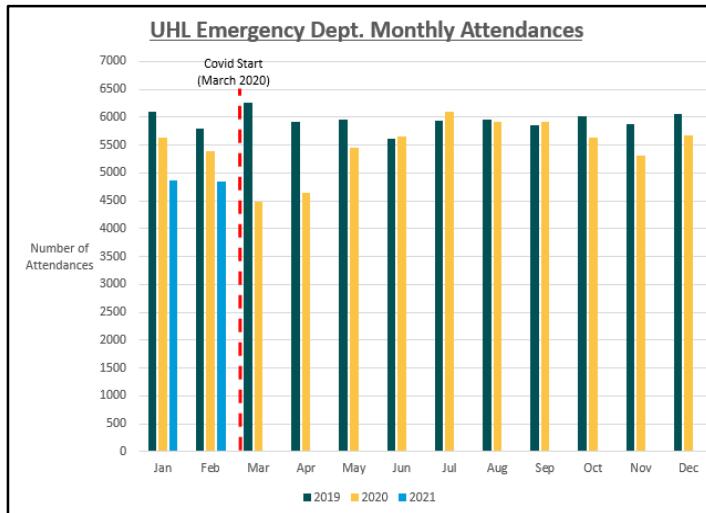


Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhise Sláinte
Health Service Executive

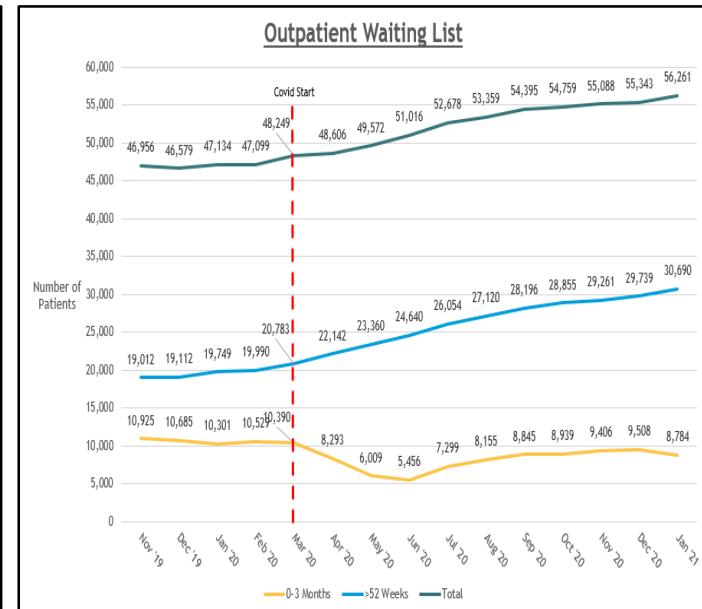
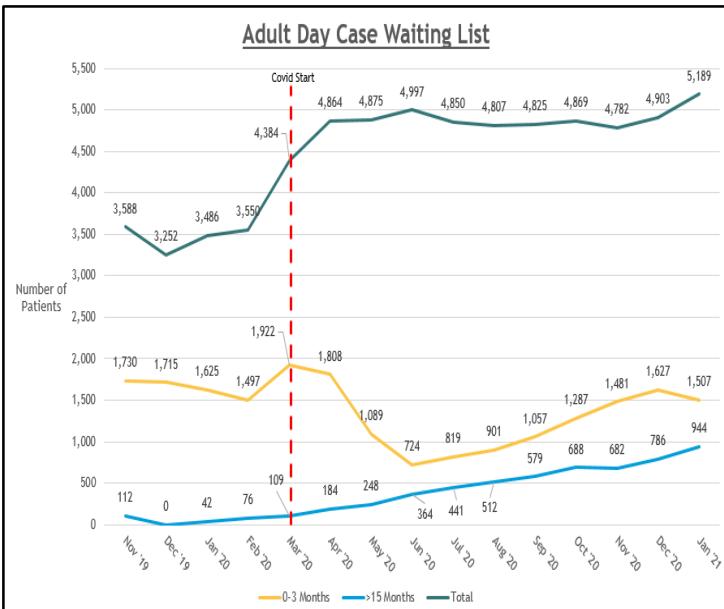
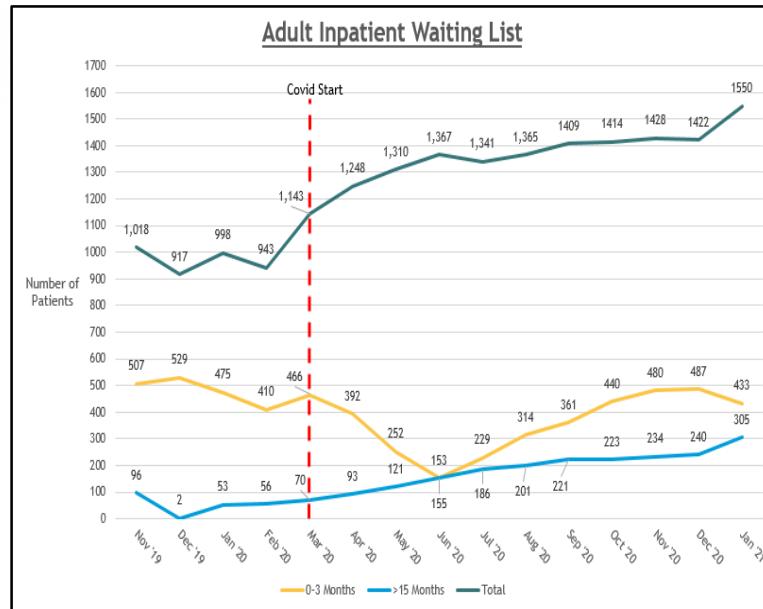
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Impact of Covid-19 on Unscheduled Care



Impact of Covid-19 on Scheduled Care



Impact of Covid-19 on staffing

| Date | Number of staff on COVID-19 leave |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11/01/2021 | 527 |
| 18/01/2021 | 602 |
| 25/01/2021 | 489 |
| 01/02/2021 | 415 |
| 08/02/2021 | 255 |
| 15/02/2021 | 194 |
| 22/02/2021 | 123 |
| 01/03/2021 | 104 |
| 08/03/2021 | 78 |

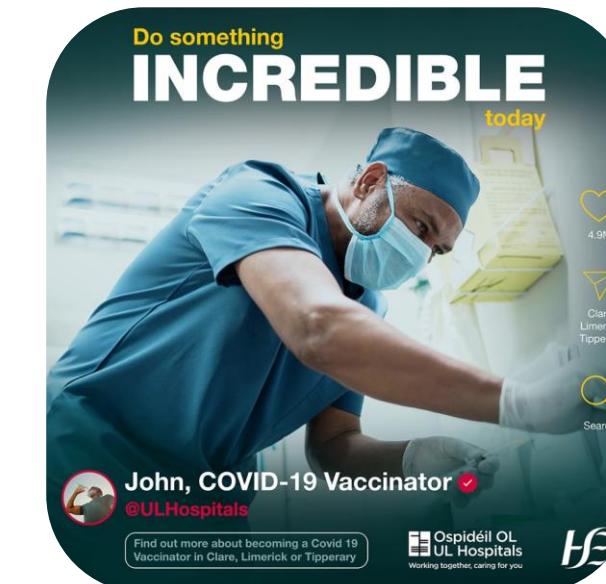
- The [HSE National Service Plan 2021](#) details a total operating budget of €20.6 bn, an increase of €3.5 bn (21%) on the allocation in NSP 2020.
- Of this €3.5bn uplift, some €1.7bn is for COVID-19 spending and the remaining €1.8bn extra represents an underlying annual increase of 10.6%.
- It provides for an addition of 16,000 staff above December 2019 employment levels including over 1,100 medical and dental, more than 3,500 nurses and midwives and 4,000 health and social care professionals.
- It also includes a significant increase in bed numbers within acute settings, including:
 - 1,146 additional acute beds by the end of 2021
 - 135 additional sub-acute beds by the end of 2021
 - 66 additional critical care beds. Of these **six critical care beds** have already been opened at **UHL**.
- Build capacity and lay the foundations for transforming scheduled care in order to improve access in a targeted and integrated manner
- Significant focus in NSP 2021 in advancing Slàintecare and integrated care programmes

€9.86m committed to ULHG capital projects

| Project | Funding |
|---|---------------|
| Orthopaedic Surgical Unit development, Croom | €3.50m |
| Redevelopment of Ennis Hospital | €1.25m |
| Equipping of new OPD, Ennis Hospital | €0.40m |
| OPD, Nenagh Hospital | €0.45m |
| Neo-natal expansion, UMHL | €0.61m |
| Modular COVID-19 lab, UHL | €1.90m |
| Fire upgrade works, Croom | €0.50m |
| Lift replacement programme & Fire Safety Upgrade, UHL | €1.25m |
| Total: | €9.86m |

Latest Information – new starters

- 15 consultants have recently started at UL Hospitals Group in areas such as Endocrinology, Anaesthesiology, Radiology, Paediatrics, Medicine, Surgery and Trauma & Orthopaedics.
- UL Hospitals Group have been approved for a further 32 consultant posts by the HSE to support new developments.
- As of January 2021, there were 4,533 WTE employed at UL Hospitals Group.
- During 2020, UL Hospitals Group hired an additional 360 WTE. Increases in staff can be attributed to the scale up in staffing to meet the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Latest information: Covid-19 vaccination

- The majority of frontline workers at ULHG have received their COVID-19 vaccination.
- More than 20,000 vaccinations have been delivered by our vaccination teams to date.
- These numbers include ULHG frontline staff, as well as frontline healthcare workers in the MidWest prioritised by our colleagues in HSE MidWest Community Healthcare, the Department of Public Health MidWest, the National Ambulance Service and Bon Secours Hospital Limerick.
- Our vaccinators, along with community colleagues, have been delivering the vaccine to residents and staff in residential care settings and nursing homes across the MidWest.
- We have been issuing as much vaccine as possible, in line with national guidance and based on availability of vaccines and clinical prioritisation.
- As of March 14th 2021, use of the AstraZeneca vaccine was paused following a recommendation from the the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC).
- On March 18th 2020, the European Medicines Agency ruled that the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine is safe and effective. It is our hope that we can commence administering the AstraZeneca vaccine again in the coming days.

- The three vaccination centres in the Mid-West are at an advanced stage of completion.
- HSE Estates has been progressing the extensive fit-out works. The maximum booth capacities for the three centres are 30 in the Radisson Blu Hotel, 20 in the West County Hotel, and 15 in the Abbey Court Hotel.
- The centre at the Radisson Blu Hotel, recently opened for the vaccination of healthcare workers, serving as an operational dry-run to ensure maximum efficiency of the facilities when opened to the public in the coming weeks.
- When all three centres are operating at maximum capacity, our vaccinator teams will be able to deliver a collective total of up to 6,000 doses of vaccine per day.
- The official opening dates for the centres will depend on vaccine supply, clinical prioritisation and sequencing, and recruitment for the multi-disciplinary teams required to provide the service, and which will include vaccinators, pharmacists, administration, ICT and support staff.

Capital Developments - 2021

Delivered

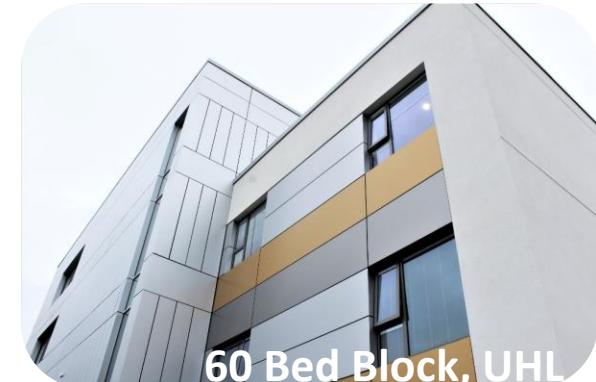
- Six additional HDU beds opened, UHL – January 2021
- 60 Bed Block, UHL – January 2021
- 24 Single Bed Block, Croom – March 2021
- Isolation rooms MAU, Ennis – opened Q1 2021



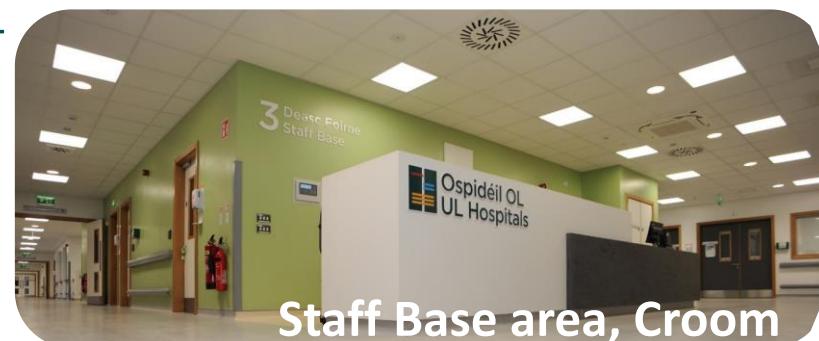
Offsite OPD, Ennis

Underway

- New offsite OPD, Ennis – opening March 29th 2021
- OPD expansion, Nenagh – opening Q2 2021
- 4 x Theatres, Croom – opening Q3 2021
- Neonatal Unit, UMHL – Administration block opening Q2 2021
- Molecular Lab, UHL – opening Q2 2021



60 Bed Block, UHL



Staff Base area, Croom

Delivered

- 24 Single Bed Unit, UHL
- 14 Bed Block, UHL
- UL Hospitals Group Intermediate Care Facility
- Two ICU and Two HDU beds opened, UHL
- COVID-19 lab, UHL

Capital Developments

Next Priorities

- 96 Bed Block – UHL, planning permission secured
- 16 Bed Block - St John's
- Simulation Centre - UHL
- Theatre Upgrade – Ennis
- Endoscopy Suite upgrade – Nenagh
- New outpatients - UHL

96 Bed Block drawings:



Waiting lists clearance plans

- We recently began scaling up scheduled care capacity, commencing with day surgery and endoscopy services.
- Executive Oversight Meetings are held weekly to review our waiting lists.
- Restoration of services will continue, subject to public health advice, at a gradual and steady pace.
- It is envisaged that outpatient services in Ennis and Nenagh will restart in the coming weeks.
- Under the recently agreed Private Hospital Safety Net Service Agreement, UL Hospitals Group has undertaken a thorough review of urgent surgical and medical waiting lists, and referred in excess of 1,200 procedures to a number of private hospitals. It is anticipated that this activity will continue under the national agreement.
- We are also discussing several initiatives with the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF), and wherever possible, virtual clinics are being used across our services, as a means of identifying patients who can be progressed whether for diagnostic imaging, minor procedures, or full episodes of care.
- We are looking forward to the publication of the Access to Care Action Plan 2021, to be finalised between the HSE and the DoH in early 2021.



*Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group*