

No education like adversity

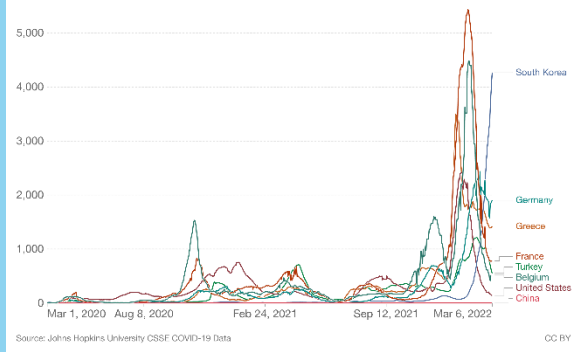
What has COVID taught us?

Louise Allen
Birmingham Children's Hospital



By your side

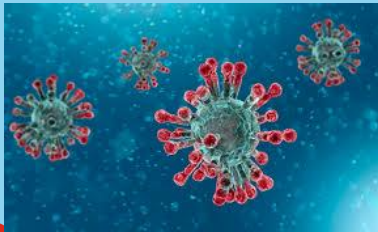
Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people
7-day rolling average. Due to limited testing, the number of confirmed cases is lower than the true number of infections.



Birmingham Women's
and Children's
NHS Foundation Trust

MARCH 2020

The world changed but
NHS had to continue



By your side

What to do – and quick!

- Teams A and B (in one afternoon)
- Set up WFH – took a little longer
- Safety (in the city)
- Carried on working
- Restricted numbers to labs/offices
- Open Windows
- Washed our hands (a lot)
- Empty trains, driving to work, city parking



NBS acceptance changes

- We accepted day 4 samples and totally relaxed the insufficient/unsuitable standards.
- Samples had to be totally unusable before we requested a repeat
- Weekly spreadsheet that all NBS labs filled in to feed back to the programme centre to update on staffing levels, issues getting samples to the lab, any other issues



- Workload went down considerably
- Issues with supplies
- Items being prioritised for COVID, especially tips
- Ended up with a VIRTUAL UKAS inspection
- TAT slippage was minimal due to low sample numbers
- Didn't see some colleagues for weeks!



What have we maintained?

- Implemented a week by week rota for duty biochemist as opposed to the typical monthly rota – this worked better as can discuss who is available the week before.
- Virtual meetings with clinical teams as opposed to face to face meetings – increased level of attendance
- Screening nurse telephone calls to parents giving positive result and information, instead of face to face visits (main changes for sickle cell disease, occasional CF during the pandemic but now CF's are mainly face to face visits)
- WFH – good to catch up on quality work, especially during preparation for UKAS inspection



Some personal comments....

- Lucky to keep on working in strange times
- On reflection 'worry less about the little things'
- Lockdown birthday parties – highlight
- Sourdough, baking and making meals go further with less
- Home-schooling!!
- Rescuing food



**If you see my kids
locked outside today,
mind your business. We
are having a fire drill.
[#HomeSchool](#)**

