Appendix 1: Mathematical Modelling Methods

An individual-based model of the spread of COVID-19 in English hospitals:

Overview, Design Concepts, and Details (ODD) Protocol:

We have developed an individual-based model (IBM) of the transmission of COVID-19 in an English hospital and use the ODD protocol, 1 to provide a complete and rigorous model description of the model used for the simulations described in the "Mathematical Model" section of the main document's methods.

Purpose:

The purpose of the model is to represent the acquisition and transmission of SARS-CoV-2 by patientfacing healthcare workers (HCWs) and patients in a typical English hospital and answer questions around the source of infection and the effectiveness of interventions.

Entities, state variables and scales:

The model contains two environment classes, namely the Community and the Hospital. The Community class tracks the change in community prevalence per day and determines the number of community-acquired symptomatic and exposed cases to admit to hospital. The Hospital class stores the agent lists and handles the creation of newly admitted agents as well as the removal of patients that are to be discharged. There are two types of agents in the model, Patients, and HCWs, both of which inherit basic variables from the abstract People class.

Table 1: States and variables of model agents.

Process overview and scheduling:

The model runs with a 4-hour time-step, i.e. six time-steps per day. Currently all agents are on the same time-step schedule and are handled by the agent scheduler built into the Multi-Agent Simulator of Neighbourhoods toolkit (MASON),² which randomly shuffles agents so that there is no order of which class/agent is stepped first, so the order of the processes active at every time-step described here is arbitrary.

*Community***:** When a community object is instantiated, it randomly selects a region and reads in the admissions data for that region from the file "region name.csv". Every time the community object is stepped it performs three basic tasks. It updates the prevalence variable in line with the admissions data that has been read in, calculated the number of infected cases in the community, and calculated the number of exposed cases in the community. The parameters for the logistic curves defining the proportion of hospital cases that are with the Alpha variant are different between regions. This distribution and the vaccination probability over time by five-year age bands are generated when the community object is instantiated.

*Hospital***:** At the very first time-step the function *setupHospital* that reads in the number of HCWs and beds from the parameter file and creates all the HCW and patient agents required, each with *infection_status* = NONE, and randomly assigns each HCW's *onShift* variable. At each subsequent time-step the number of infected, susceptible, and exposed to admit from the community in this 24 hour period is calculated. The number of infected patients to admit is taken from the admissions file in the community object, and the *communityInfection* variable is set to true, then for a random number of the remaining empty beds patients are admitted as either susceptible or exposed. The exposure probability is proportional to the number of infected patients being admitted at that time (*Patients.expOnAdmissionProb* in the parameter file). Next the hospital's ward classifications are updated: making any red wards that have no known or suspected COVID-19 patients green and any wards with known or suspected COVID-19 patients red. Finally the list of HCWs that visit the ward in that time-step is reset ready for the next iteration of the hospital. On admission patients are assigned a length of stay (LOS) from a Weibull distribution that is a function of their age, gender, and infection status. The hospital is divided into *wards* "wards" with *shared_bays* "bays" in each ward and *bedsPerBay* beds in each bay (default *bedsPerBay* = 6). There are two locations for HCWs in a hospital instance, either in the hospital (can interact with all other HCWs in the hospital) or out of the hospital (implicitly interact with the community), and HCWs that are in the hospital interact with patients by randomly selecting beds within bays within wards to visit, during which time they interact with only the patient in that bed and no other patients or HCWs. Other spatial aspects of a hospital (wards, corridors, offices etc) are not explicitly represented. A subset of HCWs are defined to be *wardBased*, those HCWs only select a bed/bay to visit since their activities are restricted to a single ward defined on admission.

*People***:** At each time-step every person agent which has *infection_status* = NONE calculates the probability of becoming exposed based on the number of infected patients they are exposed to on each ward, the number of infected HCWs they are exposed to in the hospital (randomly sampled from the number of infected HCWs and non-infected HCWs), and the transmission rates bP2P, bP2H, bH2H and bH2H from the parameter file. The transmission probabilities are assumed to be the absolute probability of transmission across all possible modes (airborne, aerosol, fomite) from each specified source. People that have *infection_status* = EXPOSED are assigned an incubation period from a Gamma distribution after which time they become asymptomatically or pre-symptomatically infected and are assigned a recovery time-step from a Gamma distribution. People with *infected* status = INFECTED P are assigned an onset period from a log-normal distribution after which time they transition to INFECTED S. When the recovery time-step is exceeded, people have *infection* status RECOVERED, and are immune to future infections (as reinfections were rare during this stage in the pandemic)^{3, 4}. If the person agent is a Patient then when they become infected a new LOS is generated. Currently there is no rule stating that this should be greater than the original LOS. Note that the recovery time-step can be greater than the LOS.

Patients: As well as undergoing the behaviours that apply to all People agents in the hospital, patients can be tested on admission and are assigned to either single rooms or multiple bed bays, selected following the flow diagram in **Error! Reference source not found.**. They are also discharged and those that have an *infection_status* of EXPOSED or INFECTED_P on admission are stepped for a further 14 days. During this time, the same Patient agent may be readmitted to hospital. On admission patients may have been vaccinated with one or two doses of a vaccine, with the vaccination probability being drawn from the dose-specific logistic distribution for their age group from the Community class. We took vaccination data from National Immunisation Management System (NIMS), with population denominators taken from Office for National Statistics (ONS) population predictions for 2020,⁵ stratified for age-band included in the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) priority list.⁶ It is assumed that no COVID-19 admissions are vaccinated at this stage. Patients that share a bay with an infected patient can be infected directly with transmission probability *bP2P* and all patients in the ward can become infected indirectly by any other infected patient based on the number of infected patients in the hospital with probability *P2P_hosp*. Patients can also be directly or indirectly infected by any infected HCW that is on shift with probability *bH2P,* or indirectly by a patient where there is shared HCW contacts again with probability *bP2P_hosp*. We have calibrated these probabilities to reproduce observed data on the proportion of inpatients infected at an individual secondary healthcare organisation (Trust) level.

HCW: In addition to the behaviours exhibited by all People agents, HCWs iterate between on and off shift, where they are infected by either other people in the hospital (if *onShift* = true) or with a probability of 0.13*beta*community prevalence per day if *onShift* = false . This is derived from data stating that each case has on average seven contacts. If 1.4 million/66.4 million people work for the NHS,⁷ that means that ~2% of people in England are classed as HCWs in this setting, therefore the probability of one of these seven contacts being a HCW is $1 -$ (probability none of them are) = $1 -$ 0.98⁷ = 0.136. For each contact the transmission rate is approximately 0.4 thus the probability of a HCW picking up an infection in the community is 0.136*0.4*community incidence rate (prevalence/4.6 days) where 0.4 is the transmission rate in the community. ⁸ HCW agents can also self-isolate while their *infection_status* is INFECTED_S, they can also be periodically tested with lateral flow device (LFD) tests and those with positive results are forced to isolate, with two days isolation following a false positive or ten days isolation following a true positive. HCWs that have been isolating following a true positive are automatically classed as RECOVERED when returning to work. The time that a HCW will become vaccinated (for first and second doses) is assigned on

instantiation and is selected from dose-specific logistic distribution, we calculated the distribution function parameters from SIREN study participants linked with NIMS.

Figure 1: Schematic of assignment of patients to beds.

Design Concepts:

The model is designed with the structure demonstrated in Additional Figure 3 in the Supplementary Information: Additional Tables and Figures.

The emergent properties of this model are number of infected patients and HCWs over time and the sources of infection. Parameter uncertainty is introduced by using probabilities for infection rates and the inclusion of LOS, incubation, onset, recovery, and vaccination variables drawn from probability distributions.

We parameterised this model for a typical English hospital with 1000 beds and 8000 HCWs to reflect the average bed size to staff ratio in NHS England (NHSE) Trusts. We estimated death rates and length of stay distributions using the R library *fitdistrplus*, 9 and data from the Secondary Uses Service (SUS) COVID-19 linked to laboratory data of positive tests from Public Health England's Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS) (methodology as in Bhattacharya et al.).¹⁰ The death probability was estimated by fitting a polynomial to the average probability of dying in hospital per year of age multiplied by the discharge probability from the SUS dataset, sampling the age distribution from the SUS dataset, and taking the mean. For susceptible individuals, the death probability was calculated from the literature,¹¹ and for infected individuals, the combined SUS/SGSS data were used. Data gathered from SUS comprised all completed hospital spells in NHSE Trusts arising from admissions over a nine-month period from 10 March 2020 through to 31 December 2020 inclusive. We obtained age (in years) and sex of the patient, and calculated length of stay to

the nearest day using recorded admission and discharge dates. We fitted length of stay distributions for positive and negative admissions using a Weibull distribution and adjusting for age and sex. Suitable values for transmission parameters between patients and HCWs were selected to quantitively and qualitatively reproduce data from individual Trusts in different regions of England, with differential case-loads. We parameterised vaccine effectiveness using data relating to the protection against infection by Alpha variant (as the predominate variant across the vaccine rollout period within the second wave) by Pfizer BioNTech (BNT162b2) COVID-19 vaccine (received by over 90% of vaccinated SIREN participants) which was assumed constant across the working-age range.¹² HCW infection data was calibrated using a meta-analysis of studies on HCW infection rates,¹³ combined with results from the SIREN study.

Model Calibration:

Where data were available, we assigned values to identifiable parameters from the literature [\(](#page-9-0)

[Appendix Table A](#page-9-0)*1*). The unidentifiable parameters were iteratively calibrated to within acceptable ranges using the methodology described by Joslyn et al.¹⁴ We derived a set of criteria against which simulations were deemed to be representative of observed data using aggregated hospital-level data on the infection rate in patients and HCWs drawn; these criteria are defined i[n Table 2.](#page-5-0) Initially log-10 uniform probability distributions were assumed for all transmission probabilities and parameters were allowed to take on any value from 10^{-10} to 1. 1000 Latin Hypercube sampled parameter sets were generated and simulations were executed as described in "Simulations". For the next iteration a new distribution was derived for each parameter set by identifying the highest-density regions for each parameter set in which any of the tests were satisfied. This was repeated for two further iterations until a subset of runs passed all four tests. The parameter sets that passed all four tests were then assessed qualitatively against empirical data on patient and HCW infections, so compared qualitatively to the parameter values to those in a previously published simple deterministic model of hospital transmission.¹⁵

The proportion of susceptible patients that acquired a nosocomial infection was estimated to be less than 5% based on a previous modelling study demonstrating this outcome in a high prevalence area with higher than normal transmission rates.¹⁵ We used data from the SIREN study to estimate the proportion of HCWs infected over time. The range into which a result must fall to pass the test relating to each criterion is detailed in [Table 2.](#page-5-0)

Table 2: Criteria for an outcome to be defined as related to a feasible parameter set.

Supplementary Information: Additional Tables and Figures, Additional Figure 3 shows the distribution of cumulative infection in SIREN participants by Trust at the calibration timepoints.

Input Data:

The model relies on input data in the form of a file containing the number of cases to admit per day, this file must be named "region.csv" where region is one of those defined in [Table 1.](#page-0-0) The parameters are also imported from an XML parameter file, examples of these files are contained in the Appendix below.

Computational platform:

The model is constructed in the Java programming language using Java SE 11. The IBM is crossplatform and runs without visualisation software. Simulations were executed locally.

Simulations:

The model was simulated for 2550 time-steps covering a time period of 425 days (6 steps per simulated day) aligning with the collection period of the patient-level and SIREN data. Individuallevel patient and HCW data on infection status and location were recorded at each time-step.

Scaling between regional and national data:

To scale regional data up to a national level, the regional data is weighted by the proportion of all NHS beds in a particular region.¹⁶

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Appendices: Parameter Value Tables and Example Input Files:

Appendix Table A1: Parameter values.

Appendix Table A2: Logistic distribution coefficients for Alpha variant proportion.

Fitted using R package 'drc'

Appendix Table A3: Logistic distribution coefficients for vaccine cover proportion (1+ doses).

Fit to period 7th December – 9th April inclusive, assuming day 0 (7th December) has 0% coverage Fitted function : $y = A/(1 + exp(-k(t - \mu)))$ $\vert t =$ day number, y = coverage proportion

Input File Example 1: XML parameter file.


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Input File Example 2: Admissions File.

