

Breakout 2

Coronavirus Variants of Concern: how might these change our future...

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There has been extensive modelling of the COVID19 pandemic with significant contributions from the SD community as witnessed by the event held by the Society back in May ([link](#)). One of those has been work by Whole Systems Partnership to support local demand and capacity planning in a number of regions of England. This Epidemiological model links to the risks of hospitalisation and death and has provided important insights and planning goals for a wide range of hospitals and related services.

With the second wave of COVID behind us and the probability of increased cases over the summer and autumn we ask the question about what impact new variants of COVID might have. With the experience of modelling the now dominant 'Kent variant' in the recent autumn and winter WSP use their model to explore how new variants such as those from South Africa, Brazil or India might impact on future infections, hospitalisation and deaths. This session will involve the opportunity for participants to engage with the model to explore possibilities and to consider how the Government might be advised to respond.