

Covid + Flu 'twindemic' forecast

29 September 2022

The US & England could see hospitalisations reach ~183K & ~30K per a week as COVID-19 and flu resurface

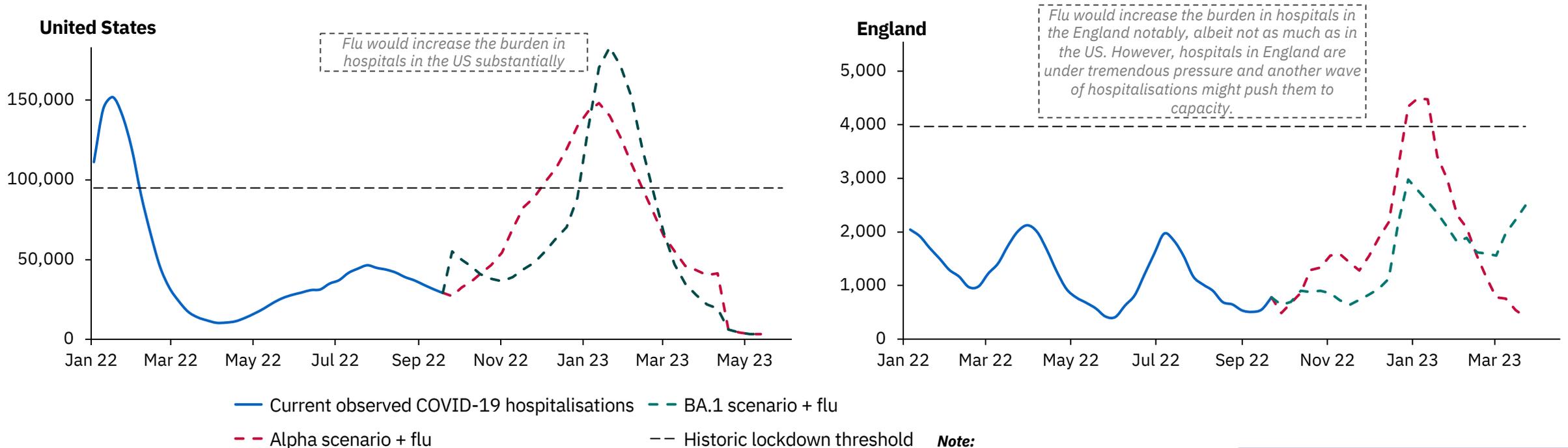
US and England Hospitalisation forecasts for COVID-19 and Influenza this winter

COVID-19 hospitalisations have fluctuated with variant emergence and population immunity, and a novel variant to Alpha or BA.1 (winter waves), could overwhelm hospitals if it were to materialize this winter. With several COVID-19 variants currently circulating, all with enhanced immune escape capabilities, the next COVID-19 wave is imminent. Simultaneously, the upcoming flu season is of concern as Australia had an early return of influenza this year fueled by the H3N2 flu strain, burdening hospitals. H3N2 can cause more severe disease than other flu strains and was responsible for the UK's last bad flu season in 2017-18, in which there were about 22,000 excess deaths and twice as many hospital admissions. Governments are urging those eligible to get a COVID-19 booster and flu shot.

Limitations:

- Flu weekly hospital admissions are from 2017-18, and this should be used as a signifier only, as flu hospitalisations cannot be projected.
- The model assumes these hospitalisations are additive and do not include coinfections.
- Flu and COVID-19 hospital admission data only available for England and not the UK.
- Confirmed influenza hospitalisations are an underestimate of the true burden as its non-notifiable.

United States and England weekly observed COVID-19 hospital admissions and possible future hospitalisations this winter when flu and COVID-19 coincide



Note:

BA.1 scenario (vaccinated population);
Alpha scenario (unvaccinated population)

Data: OWID, [Gov](#), [Gov](#), [Media](#); Modelling: Airfinity
 Visualisation: Airfinity

Limitations of analysis

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More info.

Dr Louise Blair
Lead Analyst
louise@airfinity.com