

Possible areas of focus for SAGE

Hazard Assessment

The potential impact on the UK will be affected by the period of advance warning before the disease arrives in the UK, and the level of understanding of the disease and the pathogen that is available prior to arrival. Although it is likely that any novel disease will arise elsewhere than the UK, there is a possibility that the outbreak will start in the UK (as with BSE), in which case advance warning will be solely dependent on UK biosurveillance efforts.

In reasonable worst case scenarios it is envisaged that advance warning will allow mitigation of impact upon arrival of the disease in the UK.

In the event that an outbreak starts outside the UK, international bodies such as the European Centres for Disease Control (ECDC), WHO, and the US CDC may be early responders and sources of data. The UK is member of the EU (ECDC) and UN (WHO), and thus has formal access to ECDC and WHO. DH and PHE are engaged with the US CDC. For animal diseases, FAO and OIE may be early responders and sources of data. The UK is a member of the UN (FAO) and OIE and thus has formal access to both organizations.

DH, DEFRA and PHE have well established systems for biosurveillance, and for outbreak control with known pathogen threats. There is also a well-established relationship between the three organisations and FSA in which risk assessments of potential zoonoses is carried out and any relevant responses coordinated between veterinary and human health.

COBR requests SAGE advice on:	Key questions for SAGE:
Hazard Assessment	
<p>1.) <u>What do we know about the disease and the microbe that causes it?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the case fatality rate? • How ill are patients, and for how long? • Has the microbe been isolated? • How is it transmitted? • Is the genome sequence known? • What is the incubation period? • Is it infectious before symptomatic? • Are there asymptomatic infections 	<p><u>What data are needed and by when?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary (not complete) sequence data is needed immediately • Description of clinical progression is needed immediately • Geographical distribution is needed immediately – to be updated daily if necessary • Numbers of confirmed/suspected cases and outcomes is needed immediately – to be updated daily if necessary • Update on UK biosurveillance