

[13/03/2020, 3:15:43 pm] You created group "CSA-CMO-Matt-PM-Dom"
[13/03/2020, 3:15:43 pm] CSA-CMO-Matt-PM-Dom: Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. No one outside of this chat, not even WhatsApp, can read or listen to them.
[13/03/2020, 3:16:11 pm] DomC: Guys you are on WhatsApp group set up at PM's request. Please dont share PM mobile more widely...
[13/03/2020, 3:16:49 pm] Vallance Patrick: Ok
[13/03/2020, 3:16:59 pm] Whitty Chris: Ok
[13/03/2020, 3:38:14 pm] Johnson Boris: I&S pleading for help w respirators

We really need to respond and get our manufacturers going

This is clearly a nightmare for the Italians and it will be the same for us all too soon

Have talked to Dyson and Bamford today but we need an urgent number ten summit and maybe find someone to drive the effort

MAtt ? Gove ?

[13/03/2020, 3:40:57 pm] DomC: Yup, we are on it
[13/03/2020, 3:42:44 pm] Hancock Matt: Yes. I think we need both. I've also spoken to NR about it.
[13/03/2020, 3:42:47 pm] Hancock Matt: The Welsh Govt have just confirmed to me they are going to cancel mass gatherings after COBR on Monday
[13/03/2020, 3:44:58 pm] DomC: Steve Oldfield is leading
[13/03/2020, 6:05:39 pm] Hancock Matt: We've just held a brilliant call with engineering design companies, manufacturers, tech design consultants etc and they're all dead keen to work collaboratively to come up with a ventilator! Meeting again next week in Cambridge to share ideas. We'll finalise a spec over the weekend to send to them. I've had calls from Dyson and JCB following the PM giving them my mobile number - they'll do everything they can to help too. The PM's "call-to-Arms" notice needs to focus on the manufacturing and logistical challenge, not the clever design one (no time for early-stage thinking, we need to apply known technology and get stuff made). So, volume capacity production, who can work at speed and who have access to large volume component supply are key. I'll have some bullets over to your office in next hour for you to review and send to No 10 if you're happy.
[13/03/2020, 6:05:50 pm] Hancock Matt: From Steve Oldfield 📧
[13/03/2020, 6:06:57 pm] DomC: Brilliant let's move at warp speed
[13/03/2020, 6:09:31 pm] Hancock Matt: Can you arrange a No10 mtg next week?
[13/03/2020, 8:48:17 pm] Johnson Boris: You bet Monday fine
[13/03/2020, 8:48:56 pm] DomC: Yup
[13/03/2020, 8:49:52 pm] DomC: Think will prob be teleconference not sure how many will come. At least one of tech people from other night has tested positive
[13/03/2020, 9:09:33 pm] Johnson Boris: Are we ok on this herd immunity argument ? Some scientists apparently suggesting there may be no such thing

How do we win ?

[13/03/2020, 9:10:38 pm] Johnson Boris: Just saw Patrick doing a heroic job on sky and then some other boffin saying it ain't so etc
[13/03/2020, 9:13:27 pm] Johnson Boris: Also what is the WHO line on tracking and testing and are we following it ? Getting some grief about this too
[13/03/2020, 9:15:04 pm] Vallance Patrick: I think we will have this back and forth a bit and there will always be some loud dissenting science voices. We have some good work from SAGE from today that we can discuss tomorrow. I do think we will need to show some action on next two interventions and on how/when we would do more social distancing.
[13/03/2020, 9:17:03 pm] Johnson Boris: Ok good thanks so much

In science we trust !

We need to show why we are not closing pubs etc as they are in Austria

And keep repeating messages on schools

We now a European outlier and will need explaining

[13/03/2020, 9:18:29 pm] Vallance Patrick: And we will need to do more and signal that clearly

[13/03/2020, 9:24:09 pm] DomC: I think: large public mtngs should be stopped by Saturday (this is not battle to fight); I think many in government haven't absorbed the numbers and graphs from SAGE and nhs.

We will have to do a 3 amigos on Monday and signal we will move through the gears as fast and hard as necessary to avoid Nhs collapse.

The herd immunity argument is I'm afraid a nightmare from comms perspective and we need better ways to explain on Monday

[13/03/2020, 9:26:37 pm] DomC: Exactly. Also we must talk on Monday through the full plan up to full lockdown if necessary in time to stop Italy style collapse. If we are 2-4 weeks behind Italy we may have to be more aggressive faster than media thinks

[13/03/2020, 9:27:42 pm] Vallance Patrick: Yes

[13/03/2020, 9:34:20 pm] Whitty Chris: I think we need to start signalling that we are supportive of social distancing generically. I don't think herd immunity is very easy to explain even to medics.

[13/03/2020, 9:36:49 pm] DomC: 👍

[13/03/2020, 10:10:27 pm] Hancock Matt: Teleconference even better. Can open to more & easier to set up

[13/03/2020, 10:29:30 pm] DomC: Exams: they are basically during peak. I think it's totally unrealistic to think we will be dealing with the peak AND saying 'send your kids in for exams as normal'.

I think we need contingency plans for shifting them all to August. 'Everybody does the resits'

[13/03/2020, 10:30:14 pm] DomC: If so then the sooner we let people plan for this the better

[13/03/2020, 10:53:50 pm] Hancock Matt: We should not set our faces against the social distancing that the evidence shows is most effective.

If that is, for instance, family events, then we need to be prepared to say that.

There may be a way to explain this by a more general call to arms: stop unnecessary social contact to save the lives of the most vulnerable.

There are some very emotionally intelligent ways to communicate this - that play on peoples' best instincts - and will keep us on the best high ground. We should be smart about how to do that.

[14/03/2020, 6:49:22 am] Johnson Boris: Interesting/terrifying on numbers of infections required for herd immunity to work if that is part of the strategy.

<https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-can-herd-immunity-really-protect-us-133583>

If you have a new disease, such as COVID-19, that we don't have a vaccine for and no one in the country has ever been infected with, the disease will spread through the population. But if enough people develop an immune memory, then the disease will stop spreading, even if some of the population is not immune. This is herd immunity, and it is a very effective way to protect the whole of a population against infectious disease.

But herd immunity is typically only viewed as a preventive strategy in vaccination programmes. If we don't have a vaccine – as we don't for COVID-19 – achieving herd immunity would require a significant proportion of the population to be infected and recover from COVID-19. So what would this mean for the spread of the disease in the UK?

The percentage of the population that needs to be immune to enable herd immunity depends on how transmissible a disease is. This is measured by the term R_0 , which is how many new infections each case will generate. For COVID-19, the R_0 is estimated to be 3.28, though studies are still ongoing and this number will probably change. This means that for herd immunity, about 70% of the UK population

would need to be immune to COVID-19.

Achieving herd immunity would require well over 47 million people to be infected in the UK. Current estimates are that COVID-19 has a 2.3% case-fatality rate and a 19% rate of severe disease. This means that achieving herd immunity to COVID-19 in the UK could result in the deaths of more a million people with a further eight million severe infections requiring critical care.

[14/03/2020, 6:49:39 am] Johnson Boris: Here's the prob w herd immunity argument

[14/03/2020, 7:17:18 am] Vallance Patrick: The primary reason for flattening the peak rather than trying to completely suppressing it is the problem of a severe second wave of outbreak later if we suppress really hard now. Herd immunity is not the strategy, but is a consequence - as more people get infected (as they will), we start to develop immunity and that will be part of bringing the transmission down and bringing it to a halt. We will need to get this clear and I apologise for this.

[14/03/2020, 7:22:45 am] Hancock Matt: The core of the problem is that the herd immunity argument accepts widespread transmission is inevitable.

Even if true, that is a very hard argument to make because it implies we've given up fighting it.

[14/03/2020, 7:28:40 am] Vallance Patrick: Yes and we should concentrate on the measures being taken to avoid transmission and save lives and move off talking about it.

[14/03/2020, 7:39:42 am] Johnson Boris: Agree totally w above. That's why I was concerned when some on team were suggesting last week that we actively need a proportion of pop to be infected

Civil service need to grasp

[14/03/2020, 7:55:20 am] Johnson Boris: Why on Earth do we have those u turn headlines on mass gatherings ?

[14/03/2020, 7:55:26 am] Johnson Boris: Who did this briefing

[14/03/2020, 8:49:21 am] DomC: No10 guides that we are publishing our emergency legislation that gives us powers to close things and we expect this to be the last weekend of major mass events. We all agreed this is where it's going and we shouldn't try to fight and be last in Europe on this. I'll call you now

[14/03/2020, 8:49:26 am] DomC: Guided

[14/03/2020, 8:52:02 am] DomC: We shd say this morning that we'll be publishing the models to close down that attack and get as many smart scientists as possible helping us. Patrick I'll send you some words

[14/03/2020, 8:52:33 am] Vallance Patrick: Yes SAGE keen on this.

[14/03/2020, 4:48:40 pm] You added Cain Lee

[14/03/2020, 4:48:50 pm] DomC: I've added lee cain

[14/03/2020, 6:55:48 pm] Johnson Boris: France has just closed all restaurants and bars

[14/03/2020, 6:58:53 pm] DomC: As I said earlier I think we cd easily be in this situation in Greater London at least a week today. But let's see what P and C come back with in next 48 hours

[14/03/2020, 7:00:10 pm] DomC: This regional Q is a tricky one. If London is day 4 weeks ahead of Scotland then do we regionalise our more severe measures... Again SAGE looking at this

[14/03/2020, 7:00:36 pm] DomC: is say 4 weeks...

[14/03/2020, 7:04:29 pm] Johnson Boris: Think we will need a view tomo

We are about to do things that the public have been clamouring for eg planes

They will then discover that they are hard to maintain and severely disruptive of their lives

We need to show the maths and how far and fast the disease can progress

How many could it kill etc

[14/03/2020, 7:19:24 pm] DomC: 1/ On Monday press conference, you 3 must talk through again the issue that once we put the older into multiple month isolation we know we are killing an unknown number plus causing other severe suffering, plus the vital thing is they can maintain this over the peak/worst period when NHS most stretched, so we really do not want to pull the trigger too early -- even a week of this will cause a lot of harm... People will understand this if we explain it carefully.

2/ I think we will need to move fast on social distancing, work from home, oldies shouldnt go to weddings

etc, closing pubs and nightclubs etc -- but we need a robust detailed schema for this -- which parts in what order starting when.... If we are stopping mass events by Sat, there is a logic to doing pubs etc at same time as pubs are more dangerous than mass events (tho our argument on stopping mass events is it is mainly to provide more capacity for services to cope with Corona rather than football)...

3/ I think on Monday you will need to explain somethign like: we are moving through the levels of defence as fast as we the data suggests we should to stop the NHS falling over -- we will do what we can to stop this happening including extreme social distancing/lockdown -- by doing this we buy time to increase NHS capacity, find beds, train staff, build ventilators etc -- but we also know that we cannot be sure how badly and when the virus may return after we relax these measures -- this is unknowable -- but we must do what we can to avoid NHS falling over and carnage...

4/ To stop NHS falling over means doing a bunch of stuff roughly 2-3 weeks (i think??) before we think the crunch point is cos there is a time lag on the effects and the cases already in the system feeding through to ICUs...

[14/03/2020, 7:30:41 pm] Whitty Chris: Broadly agree all 4 points chris

[14/03/2020, 7:30:49 pm] Hancock Matt: We also need urgently to address the WHO criticisms of our approach.

- we need to ramp up testing not stop testing.
- we need to continue contact tracing, and introduce self contact tracing

Both of these are in hand.

[14/03/2020, 7:44:15 pm] Vallance Patrick: I agree the 4 point plan and we will have the new modelling either tomorrow or Monday

[14/03/2020, 8:14:42 pm] Cain Lee: Papers look in reasonable shape tomorrow all things considered.

Sunday Times

Splash - TBC on fresh Govt crackdown, we are moving quicker (SAGE advice)

Poll thinks move to state of emergency and food rationing

Airlines demand bailout from Gov

Police document - stop pursuing homicides when Corona gets serious

PrEP funding - p10 lead

Health read - who is making decisions in No10

I/v with Nick Timothy

Mail on Sunday

Splash - Army/death toll doubling (contingency plans) ventilators and private beds

Spain, Italy, France, Trump

'Acceleration' of social distancing of shielding and isolation

Cruise ship

Shipman - no longer needing two signature from two doctors

Govt distancing from herd immunity

Leaders - all going fine, trust experts and Boris doing well

Sunday Telegraph

Splash - Johnson puts industry on war footing to help NHS

Households in isolation on the front / Trump flight ban / Spain

Economists - 6% drop in GDP in coming months

Cash payouts for big events being cancelled

Spire beds

Hancock oped p3

DFT perm sec - misled on HS2

Burials - religious groups may not be able to bury immediately

Sun on Sunday

Splash - Queen quits palace over virus

p2 lead - buying up hospital beds in private wards (plus ventilators)

Ad campaign with Mark Strong
p4/5 Deaths Double - with map
p6/7 Jet out of here - USA bans brits from flying
P8 pregnancy coronavirus scare
p10/11 - don't panic with supermarket letter
Katy Perrior - Boris big moment and how he handles it

Sunday Express

Splash - day of grief for ten more victims. On front - ventilators and beds
Write through of the Gov press releases - SAGE, closing schools debate, mass gatherings
Five spreads on coronavirus including supermarkets
GPs complaining they don't have tools to deal
William Bird on epidemics
Financial spread on corona - Economists warning of a recession
BBC doc on Dom C - picture from student days
Virus won't delay Brexit transition period

Observer

Dennis Campbell - NHS and private sector joining forces to free up beds
Struggle to get new vaccines as we have left EU - DH have commented
Poll - showing approval of crisis handling

Mirror/People

Mirror - taking over private hospital beds (8000)
People - two spreads inside (pays 2.4m for private beds)
Corbyn - demands urgent meeting with PM on low paid and how we can help them
[14/03/2020, 8:16:38 pm] Hancock Matt: But there is a bigger strategic question we need to discuss.

Our approach is predicated, explicitly, on the inevitability of global spread.

We need to discuss whether that indeed is inevitable, or whether we can lead a global effort at eradication

[14/03/2020, 8:39:01 pm] Johnson Boris: The trouble is that eradication may not be possible or may only be possible at immense cost and then only temporary

[14/03/2020, 8:39:49 pm] Johnson Boris: At present there is a conflict between the two strategies

[14/03/2020, 8:41:18 pm] Johnson Boris: The Chinese now need us all to go down the same route as them or else the risk is that we build up a herd immunity that they do not have and then they are especially vulnerable to a resurgence

[14/03/2020, 8:42:24 pm] Johnson Boris: On the other hand the cost in human life of building such immunity currently seems intolerable

[14/03/2020, 8:45:58 pm] Johnson Boris: **I&S** now **I&S** about doing something at a European level on borders which is pretty absurd since 3 Eu countries have already closed their borders

[14/03/2020, 8:46:24 pm] Vallance Patrick: Eradication would have to be in every country and every single person and has proved incredibly difficult even when we have had a very effective vaccine. Very difficult to see how this could be achieved unless this virus somehow can't survive after some period of time but that would be very very odd (unique). It would require a completely different approach to attempt this. Keeping it suppressed until a vaccine comes along would require long term suppression.

[14/03/2020, 8:51:19 pm] Johnson Boris: What would we have to do ?

[14/03/2020, 9:01:37 pm] Vallance Patrick: On our own it is pointless. As a world wide effort it would mean mass lockdown, testing, contact tracing for a very long time and still wouldn't work (it would probably just bounce straight back when we all stopped). Chris can say more, but this just doesn't seem feasible. You could take a strategy of doing this until a vaccine appeared but that is an unknown

[14/03/2020, 9:05:31 pm] Hancock Matt: The alternative is half a million deaths, so we must not dismiss out of hand

[14/03/2020, 9:07:00 pm] Vallance Patrick: Let's discuss tomorrow live.

[14/03/2020, 9:33:49 pm] Johnson Boris: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfKmOeZbVV4>

[14/03/2020, 9:34:05 pm] Johnson Boris: ??
[14/03/2020, 10:23:56 pm] Johnson Boris:
https://twitter.com/iandonald_psych/status/1238518371651649538?s=21
[14/03/2020, 10:25:00 pm] Johnson Boris: This is being promoted by shippers

But again - the herd immunity idea seems most perilous. Of the 300 critically ill in France half are said to be under 50

[14/03/2020, 11:24:49 pm] DomC: Some countries are stopping visitors to nursing homes. Given some of them seem to have 1/3 deaths this seems sensible...?

[14/03/2020, 11:57:29 pm] Whitty Chris: It should be considered as part of cocooning/shielding. But a) need to remember this will mean people not being visited for maybe 4 months often towards the end of their life and b) shielding residential homes and even more nursing homes is going to be really tricky. It's one of my biggest concerns.

[15/03/2020, 9:44:41 am] Johnson Boris: How are we doing today ? Any more numbers ?

Talking to **I&S** he seems very confident he has got it under control and his numbers don't look bad considering he has a very elderly pop

[15/03/2020, 9:45:59 am] Johnson Boris: He has also closed schools etc

[15/03/2020, 9:53:37 am] Whitty Chris: 206 today compared to 201 yesterday in terms of cases. Will have ITU cases and deaths later.

[15/03/2020, 9:58:44 am] Johnson Boris: Thanks

If we can really start flattening that curve will make a huge difference

[15/03/2020, 10:12:18 am] Hancock Matt: The South Korean foreign minister was fascinating - about the use of data and digital warnings to have a form of e-contact tracing

[15/03/2020, 10:16:56 am] Johnson Boris: What are their figures like ?

[15/03/2020, 10:22:35 am] Hancock Matt: <attached: 00000079-PHOTO-2020-03-15-10-22-35.jpg>

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[15/03/2020, 10:24:07 am] Vallance Patrick: Yes I think we will need to move to the stricter quarantine and social distancing

[15/03/2020, 10:25:14 am] Johnson Boris: Do we have enough tests ? Testing kits ?

[15/03/2020, 10:29:28 am] Hancock Matt: No. We are doing more testing all the time - just under 5000 yesterday - rising to 10000 a day - but we need:

- more testing capability
- a bedside (as opposed to lab) test

Like the ventilators we have a national effort with industry on this - had a conference this week.

[15/03/2020, 10:32:21 am] DomC: What US Government should do regarding Covid-19.pdf <attached: 00000083-What US Government should do regarding Covid-19.pdf>

[15/03/2020, 10:32:26 am] DomC: Guys, one of the top 5 smartest tech billionaires in the world sent me this doc last night -- obv it's about America but there are lots of things that apply here now. Please do not forward the whole thing but all of us should read through it and create a checklist of stuff where we either get updates or start new projects across Gvt. P/C -- wd be helpful if you can update me later today on 'things wrong / we shd NOT do' in this doc...

[15/03/2020, 10:48:18 am] Johnson Boris: <attached: 00000085-PHOTO-2020-03-15-10-48-18.jpg>

[Irrelevant]

[15/03/2020, 10:49:15 am] Johnson Boris: Seeing what happened in Italy we simply have NO TIME

[15/03/2020, 10:49:19 am] Hancock Matt: On it

[15/03/2020, 11:04:03 am] Cain Lee: It would be good for dyson to write about it too perhaps?

[15/03/2020, 12:05:20 pm] DomC: Chris shd we intro temperature scanning at No10 to keep critical people safer?

[15/03/2020, 12:05:39 pm] DomC: Seems Singapore and some others have but we'll be guided by you obv

[15/03/2020, 12:10:27 pm] Whitty Chris: Only moderately sensitive. And the optics look a bit odd if we are not asking people to elsewhere. I wonder if a middle way is to ask everyone to take their temp before they leave home if coming to DS? That fits exactly with the 'if you have a cough or fever stay at home' model. And make remote meetings easy and accepted so people feel empowered to continue to work if

[20/03/2020, 8:01:06 am] Johnson Boris: Getting Cornwall mps saying can we discourage huge domestic tourism at Easter. Apparently they seeing big bookings

[20/03/2020, 8:02:43 am] Cain Lee: From a comms perspective it is certainly easier to have one simple message nationwide. I suspect this will encourage much greater compliance - which is what we need at this moment in time

[20/03/2020, 11:11:07 am] Johnson Boris: I rang Chris Evans at telegraph and said story about turning away corona patient in Lewisham was not true

How is London doing generally ?

[20/03/2020, 12:52:02 pm] Johnson Boris: <attached: 00000121-PHOTO-2020-03-20-12-52-02.jpg>

INQ000048366

[20/03/2020, 12:57:26 pm] Johnson Boris: Dyson freaking

Action this day

[20/03/2020, 12:59:16 pm] Hancock Matt: I have also received the same. I will talk to Dyson and Michael and sort it.

At the heart of this problem is CO trying to do things like buy ventilators that are core DHSC responsibility. It's why I was clear this morning that we need to take responsibility for these things here - with Michael checking progress - not have people falling over each other.

Despite that, the ventilator project is going well. We will fix

[20/03/2020, 7:18:41 pm] Johnson Boris: Is it worth publicising this terrifying fact that on current trajectory we will hit 10 k deaths in 2 weeks

It will focus peoples minds on the measures we need them to follow and of course it shows the scale of the challenge

[20/03/2020, 7:20:39 pm] DomC: People are already drawing these graphs -- at the moment deaths are relatively low so the numbers are noisier -- can be 20% then 45% etc day by day... at the moment though it is above 33% on average which puts us on italy curve at the mo, roughly

[20/03/2020, 7:22:06 pm] Johnson Boris: I think we should get it out there

[20/03/2020, 7:25:56 pm] Vallance Patrick: I would be careful about precise numbers and times. Maybe just reiterate that unchanged we would be in same place as Italy in 2-4 weeks

[21/03/2020, 9:07:51 am] Johnson Boris: I suppose the figures showing faster climb rate than Italy also have to be treated w caution

MAtt is there any value in getting the met to help trace contacts or are we past that stage ?

[21/03/2020, 11:49:13 am] Johnson Boris: <https://www.buzzfeed.com/alexwickham/10-days-that-changed-britains-coronavirus-approach>

[21/03/2020, 11:50:53 am] Johnson Boris: Seems to be some manoeuvring here by both politicians and scientists ! We will need to muster a counter argument

[21/03/2020, 11:51:22 am] Johnson Boris: And civil servants alas

[21/03/2020, 11:54:31 am] Vallance Patrick: Yes. Not helpful or truthful

[21/03/2020, 12:12:41 pm] Johnson Boris: I agree and it would be helpful for us all if we have a clear narrative about what really happened and why we took the decisions we did

[21/03/2020, 12:56:24 pm] Hancock Matt: Surely it's simple: we followed the science. The scientific advice showed the disease accelerating so we acted, as we always said we might have to. Less juicy but true.

[21/03/2020, 1:01:41 pm] Whitty Chris: That's basically it. The only major change along the path was that originally we thought it might be possible to do without school closures. When new modelling showed we would also need that it was communicated and acted on rapidly. Otherwise it was a matter of timing.

[21/03/2020, 2:32:40 pm] Johnson Boris: Today is Mother's Day. It is a day when we celebrate the sacrifice and the effort of those who gave us life, and across the country I know that millions of people will have been preparing to do something special; not just a card, not just flowers. I know that everyone's strongest instinct is to go and see their mothers in person, to have a meal together, to show them how much love them. But I am afraid that this Mothering Sunday the single best present that we can give - we who owe our mothers so much - is to spare them the risk of catching a very dangerous disease. The sad

[24/03/2020, 10:06:33 pm] DomC: We MUST get a grip of the tube -- focus groups tonight were scathing and the Gvt, not Sadiq, is seen as to blame

[24/03/2020, 10:07:51 pm] DomC: P/Chris -- public are saying in focus groups -- 'other countries are quarantining people who fly in from hotspots, why on earth aren't we??' Isn't this something we should do, as per SING/Taiwan etc??

[24/03/2020, 10:13:35 pm] Whitty Chris: Sage looked at this more than once. Imported will now add very little to the burden of disease. It really makes a marginal difference even at the start (Italy - good example, they banned flights from China). It is always true that the population think foreigners (or visitors) are to blame.

[24/03/2020, 10:14:06 pm] Whitty Chris: Patrick can comment on Sage more formally.

[24/03/2020, 10:19:27 pm] Whitty Chris: (We described syphilis as the French Pox, the Spanish Pox or the Neapolitan disease depending on who was most out of favour)

[24/03/2020, 10:21:58 pm] DomC: I get that but a/ I'm not saying stop the flights, b/ I'm suggesting it's understandable and arguably reasonable to say that if everyone in non-critical jobs is being urged to stay at home cos we're doing all we can to stop the disease, why wouldn't we quarantine (whatever Taiwan/SING do) those returning from hotspots for 7 days? This does not seem unreasonable to me -- it's obviously true that by itself it would have a trivial effect but that's also true of endless relatively small things in isolation! But if your policy is -- do all we reasonably can, then issuing this instruction, as countries that have visibly been successful are doing, does seem reasonable...? Also -- it is a trivial cost -- and if the public watch it and conclude 'this shows the govt isn't actually serious, screw it I'm going out' etc -- which I fear is starting to happen -- then...

[24/03/2020, 10:23:33 pm] DomC: I'm sure the Tube farce is by itself relatively trivial but if a Gvt isn't seen to act on such things, people conclude 'are they really serious about this' -- that's my main fear

[24/03/2020, 10:31:53 pm] Whitty Chris: I don't have a very strong view either way on asking people to self-quarantine for 7 days from hotspots. In reality the major hotspots we know about at the moment include Italy, Spain, Arguably France, USA. Plus Iran and Middle East. But probably much wider. As people are supposed to stay at home except for essential things (mainly work), it should only affect business travellers and workers who have to meet face to face, no choice. Otherwise current guidance covers it.

[24/03/2020, 10:32:20 pm] DomC: thx

[25/03/2020, 5:55:19 am] Vallance Patrick: As Chris says, travel looks like less than 0.5% of total burden of new infection. We should be asking all travellers to follow the rules (don't go out unless essential), and business travellers not to travel unless absolutely essential (difficult to see what that would be). Adding a quarantine would be a policy choice rather than something that is driven by a scientific imperative but there is not a downside

[25/03/2020, 7:53:23 am] Johnson Boris: Dyson has a ventilator ready to go. We can have 3000 a week in 3 weeks made in the UK. It's safe, effective and loses less oxygen. Rhys Williams has blocked it under the misapprehension that oxygen passes through the motor - that is total bollocks. As far as I can see we haven't actually ordered a single UK produced ventilator - we are at risk of fiddling whilst Rome burns.

I've spoke to Matt and James Bethell about it and I've escalated the issue to everyone I can think of. When you see Matt this am you need to ask about Dyson ventilator and what is blocking it. Sorry but I'm on a mission - Dyson knows what he is doing and won't risk his global brand reputation delivering dodgy ventilators. Glad to see Abbott antibody testing kits orders - I found the supply and did the deal. A

[25/03/2020, 7:53:40 am] Johnson Boris: Felders

[25/03/2020, 8:23:34 am] Hancock Matt: I've brought Feldman in - he's doing God's work - and we can go through where we are on ventilators at 9:15

[25/03/2020, 8:38:18 am] Johnson Boris: Good and he wants me to talk to the head of Roche

[25/03/2020, 8:38:25 am] Johnson Boris: V happy to do that

[25/03/2020, 8:39:01 am] Hancock Matt: Good

[25/03/2020, 3:57:00 pm] Hancock Matt: 405,000 have already signed up as NHS Volunteers - busting our 250,000 target in under 24 hours...

[25/03/2020, 3:59:57 pm] Cain Lee: Fantastic! PM will announce at press conference

[25/03/2020, 4:00:33 pm] Hancock Matt: 🙌🌟

[25/03/2020, 5:35:33 pm] Johnson Boris: Xx

<https://twitter.com/wtgowers/status/1242739384790761472>

[25/03/2020, 5:42:13 pm] Johnson Boris: This is really really important.

coming in 2 weeks, there MIGHT be a good ethical case for letting people choose this (or opt-in to a trial) while they are still conscious?? dunno... no reply needed now, just for consideration

[26/03/2020, 1:14:25 pm] Johnson Boris: <attached: 00000229-PHOTO-2020-03-26-13-14-25.jpg>

[26/03/2020, 1:14:33 pm] Johnson Boris: Surely this is rubbish

[26/03/2020, 1:17:29 pm] Johnson Boris: Can we knock it very firmly on the head

[26/03/2020, 1:32:39 pm] DomC: <attached: 00000232-PHOTO-2020-03-26-13-32-39.jpg>

[26/03/2020, 1:33:10 pm] DomC: <attached: 00000233-PHOTO-2020-03-26-13-33-10.jpg>

INQ000048375

[26/03/2020, 1:33:43 pm] DomC: <attached: 00000234-PHOTO-2020-03-26-13-33-43.jpg>

INQ000048376

[26/03/2020, 1:34:17 pm] DomC: <attached: 00000235-PHOTO-2020-03-26-13-34-17.jpg>

INQ000048377

[26/03/2020, 1:34:39 pm] DomC: <attached: 00000236-PHOTO-2020-03-26-13-34-39.jpg>

INQ000048378

[26/03/2020, 1:36:54 pm] DomC: so 85% claiming to have stopped ALL social gatherings, another 1710 reduced, & now just 1/20 saying 'haven't changed behaviour at all'

[26/03/2020, 1:37:12 pm] DomC: Each of these 3 data points is ~4-5,000 sample, nationally representative

[26/03/2020, 1:38:02 pm] DomC: We'll just let this run every few days, on top of everything else others are doing -- and the team is sucking in all polling done across gvt

[26/03/2020, 1:42:04 pm] DomC: P -- Ben is arranging for James Rubin to access our app so he can play with all the data -- there's obv loads of stuff, can look at compliance by demographics etc

[26/03/2020, 3:05:06 pm] Vallance Patrick: Excellent. Looks like this is making a big difference

[26/03/2020, 3:31:55 pm] Johnson Boris: I must say I agree w every word of this weeks spec cover story by professor John lee

1 we have no idea how many Covid deaths are truly additional

2 when Covid fatalities are recorded we have no idea whether it is merely present or actually the cause of death

3 we have no idea what proportion may have had the disease asymptotically already

4 so we have taken these extraordinary steps without being truly sure how deadly it is

[26/03/2020, 4:02:39 pm] Hancock Matt: On this story: we did not receive an invitation in time to participate in the first four EU calls. Now the EU has made clear it is open to participation to include non EU countries, we will be participating in future, alongside the enormous efforts we are already undertaking. We have extensive stockpiles of PPE, including due to no-deal planning, which are not a constraint on our current roll out, but we will of course need to replenish in time.

[26/03/2020, 5:27:10 pm] DomC: Urgent: Surely we've defined scientists working on this as key workers and are doing all we can to ensure they are supported, and keep going -- e.g people working on testing??

[26/03/2020, 5:30:09 pm] Hancock Matt: Yes

[26/03/2020, 5:40:07 pm] DomC: Can you get someone to point us to where this is in govt guidance so we can flag to hacks

[26/03/2020, 5:45:16 pm] Vallance Patrick: And by the way I flagged that group as an example of key workers in the select committee yesterday

[26/03/2020, 9:19:45 pm] DomC: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/york-approves-ventilator-splitting-allowing-hospitals-treat-patients/story?id=69816167>

[27/03/2020, 3:42:52 pm] Cain Lee: We've been testing a few new lines in the groups, this one - *Assume you've got it, Anyone can spread it* - has tested very well, there has been a real response to it. We would like to use it a lot more in our messaging. Patrick/Chris - are you happy with it?

[27/03/2020, 3:46:54 pm] Vallance Patrick: Will everyone understand what that means? Assume you've got it could be taken to mean self isolate for 7 days and then you are ok. Is there a danger that people would misunderstand?

[27/03/2020, 3:48:31 pm] Cain Lee: The feedback from the focus groups is very good, hits home with people and basically makes them focus on the need to stay at home. They didn't report any confusion

[27/03/2020, 3:57:03 pm] DomC: <attached: 00000252-PHOTO-2020-03-27-15-57-03.jpg>

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[27/03/2020, 4:09:07 pm] DomC: From a doctor (ID specialist) -- views??

Hi, if patients deteriorate usually days 8-10 with COVID-19 then my current clinical recommendation would be to infuse tocilizumab as an anti IL-6 agent. This only applies to a few of course.

My review of the evidence including unpublished discussions with a Yale Professor suggest that patients recover very quickly after this.

How is the R in the West Country ?

[13/06/2020, 11:55:26 am] Whitty Chris: Numbers continue their slow but steady downward path. No obvious sign of new trouble in the West Country so far.

[13/06/2020, 11:55:49 am] Johnson Boris: Many thanks.

[14/06/2020, 2:45:03 pm] Johnson Boris: Afternoon all how are we doing with the numbers today ?

[14/06/2020, 2:54:13 pm] Hancock Matt: Deaths rose by only 36 yesterday. Weekend figure, and I'm getting the team to double check something, but progress

[21/06/2020, 8:16:12 pm] Johnson Boris: Hi folks German r at 2.88

Any views ?

[21/06/2020, 8:18:31 pm] Hancock Matt: Very worrying

[21/06/2020, 8:19:09 pm] Johnson Boris: I suppose the r is less important when the numbers so low. They look as though they are containing it.

[21/06/2020, 8:19:27 pm] Johnson Boris: Mainly this meat packing business.

[21/06/2020, 8:20:20 pm] Hancock Matt: Yes exactly. It bounces around with the number of outbreaks. I have a call out to Jens Spahn.

I'm more concerned with the places with a big sustained rise

[24/06/2020, 8:08:38 am] Johnson Boris: Think we now need to work out protocols for local and national lockdowns if required and spell them out

[24/06/2020, 8:24:00 am] Hancock Matt: Yes. Dido & I want to publish a plan on that - next week would be perfect.

[25/06/2020, 10:30:42 pm] Johnson Boris: News from America is horrific. What is the difference in the relaxation measures in these badly hit US states (Texas Arizona etc) and what we are doing on July 4 ? In what way have they gone further than we will ?

[25/06/2020, 10:40:09 pm] Whitty Chris: Varies by state. They also went at different points in the curve. But a lot is in the public messaging I think as much as the specific measures.

[26/06/2020, 7:02:31 am] Vallance Patrick: I think the key thing is how people respond to the changes. In the US people are just going about normal business. If we have that response here we should expect a significant uptick. One thing to remember is that this virus transmits easily, it can double the number of cases in a few days, and many people don't have symptoms. That is a toxic combination that means you can be a long way down the road of resurgence before you recognise it.

[26/06/2020, 11:42:25 am] Johnson Boris: We need some tough messaging

And we need the protocols for going back into local and national lockdown

And the public need to understand exactly how they are going to be enforced

[26/06/2020, 11:42:55 am] Hancock Matt: We are working on exactly that. We were working on it for next week but seeing what we can bring forward

[28/06/2020, 9:51:07 pm] DomC: Sorry to be a bore but i still think we're not aggressive enough on masks -- why aren't they compulsory in shops like other countries? Staff in restaurants ditto shd be compulsory etc...?

[28/06/2020, 9:54:29 pm] Johnson Boris: Yup

[28/06/2020, 10:03:11 pm] Whitty Chris: No science/medical reason not to. The evidence remains moderate but positive in enclosed spaces where distancing difficult so the question is whether to use the power of the state to enforce rather than recommend.

[28/06/2020, 10:17:25 pm] Hancock Matt: I can see no reason why we do not do this. It should be in all our messaging too - including our paid for campaigns. If we go down this route it means us wearing them as examples.

[28/06/2020, 10:23:52 pm] DomC: Given masks close to free and we face such huge problems I really think we shd be more aggressive on them

[28/06/2020, 10:32:01 pm] Hancock Matt: If we want to do this then we need to change guidance - but critically also the advertising. Next week I'm told we're launching a new campaign to encourage people back to the pub. But it has no-one in a mask in it, and the tone is not cautious. Suggest we revisit that too

[02/07/2020, 7:08:49 am] Vallance Patrick: Can I check with there is going to be more action on face coverings? I think a stronger line would be consistent with the recommendation that face coverings

should be used where 2M distancing cannot be guaranteed in a potentially crowded indoor environment.

[02/07/2020, 7:17:18 am] Johnson Boris: Yes agree strongly

[02/07/2020, 7:17:30 am] Johnson Boris: And we need to work up proper Comms for sat

[02/07/2020, 7:17:39 am] Johnson Boris: America v alarming

[02/07/2020, 8:34:05 am] Hancock Matt: Yes. I have got work on this going after our discussion at the weekend. Will bring it forward ASAP

[14/07/2020, 5:52:07 pm] Johnson Boris: Hi folks what is happening on American death rates ? Anything useful I can read ?

[14/07/2020, 5:53:00 pm] Johnson Boris: Is it possible that the infection fatality rate of covid is actually declining ?

[14/07/2020, 7:42:43 pm] Whitty Chris: No meaningful change since you last looked on Friday but the view of the US public health folk is this will only go one way as it goes up the age bands. Mortality has declined with better medical treatment and will further with dexamethasone. No evidence yet of the virus becoming less virulent, and it would be very quick for it to do so.

[22/07/2020, 6:18:36 pm] DomC: <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-07-22/british-response-to-covid-19-has-been-world-class>

[22/07/2020, 6:35:34 pm] Whitty Chris: It's true on the science. And plenty more where that comes from. The systems we set up after Ebola and the NHS/NIHR infrastructure helped. It will slow down now we have few cases but we can be proud of that bit of the response (and others).

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[26/07/2020, 1:42:45 pm] DomC: <attached: 00000393-PHOTO-2020-07-26-13-42-45.jpg>

[26/07/2020, 3:42:33 pm] Johnson Boris: <attached: 00000394-PHOTO-2020-07-26-15-42-33.jpg>

INQ000102203

[27/07/2020, 8:10:48 pm] Johnson Boris: Folks looking at Spain and France and remembering March it is completely obvious we are about to be hit by a second wave

We have to get out there in front of it and explain what we are doing to prevent it

[27/07/2020, 8:14:16 pm] Cain Lee: Should add Simon Case to this group

[27/07/2020, 8:16:06 pm] Johnson Boris: Will do

[27/07/2020, 8:21:47 pm] Johnson Boris: Actually Dom has to do it

[27/07/2020, 8:33:04 pm] You added Case Simon

[27/07/2020, 9:12:36 pm] Hancock Matt: Totally agree we need to get out in front of the rising cases. After the very good meeting this morning we are organising a big package for this week.

- much stronger comms
- tightening the isolation rules
- support for those isolating

[29/07/2020, 9:01:36 pm] Johnson Boris: Achtung achtung

ONS data now says 4200 cases per day up from 2800 last week

[29/07/2020, 9:02:03 pm] Johnson Boris: If correct the r above one

[29/07/2020, 9:03:45 pm] Johnson Boris: Or at least that is what I assume

[29/07/2020, 9:04:20 pm] Johnson Boris: Presumably the Spanish now quarantine us

[29/07/2020, 9:06:59 pm] Johnson Boris: We need a really strong message tomo and some tightening

[29/07/2020, 9:16:43 pm] Case Simon: Patrick and I have just discussed. Clear warning in this data.

One especially worrying thing in this data is growth of virus in London. Small sample numbers, but as you say PM, action required as we have been discussing this week because there is now an upward trend we can't ignore

[29/07/2020, 9:42:34 pm] Johnson Boris: Am not remotely surprised by London

Tallies w what docs were telling us in newham and my observation of streets in outer boroughs

Total complacency

[29/07/2020, 9:43:31 pm] Johnson Boris: It's the general collapse in social distancing at home and in social settings

We need to get absolutely militant with these hotspot areas

And we need to tell people that if they want to save the economy and protect the nhs then they need to follow the rules

And we may need to tighten the rules

You can now have 6 people from different households indoors. Do people really understand that and are they observing it ?

[29/07/2020, 9:57:51 pm] Hancock Matt: We need to tighten the messaging and if necessary tighten the rules - the amount of social contact you can have is now confused.

Need to bring clarity - in order to help keep people able to work.

Note this will be published Friday lunchtime and our next batch of *openings* is Saturday.

[31/07/2020, 11:17:45 pm] DomC: <attached: 00000410-PHOTO-2020-07-31-23-17-45.jpg>

[01/08/2020, 9:43:45 am] DomC: Chris do we have sewage testing running yet?

[01/08/2020, 9:45:37 am] Vallance Patrick: Yes EA and Defra have it running. Not at full scale yet and still to be fully operationalised but is working. I will send you what I received on this last week

[01/08/2020, 10:07:11 am] DomC: Thx

[01/08/2020, 10:29:41 am] Johnson Boris: What is the data today ?

[01/08/2020, 10:32:17 am] Case Simon: 846 (up) new cases identified; symptom tracking app 1849 (down); deaths 38 (down)

[01/08/2020, 10:46:02 am] Case Simon: Sorry - and admissions 127 (down)

[01/08/2020, 11:12:33 am] Johnson Boris: Thanks

If we were being optimistic I suppose we might attribute the increase in cases to more testing

[01/08/2020, 11:16:49 am] Case Simon: Yes - that's right, you could. And, as you warn the population more about the virus and push Dido's new adverts about testing at them, we should expect that alone to drive numbers of positive tests up. However, the ONS numbers rather deflate the optimists balloon a bit - incidence is definitely on the rise according to their survey, as you know all too well. We have to remain vigilant this week and next. Local action where needed, but, fingers crossed, nothing more national needed.

[01/08/2020, 11:18:06 am] Johnson Boris: The great unknown is whether local action actually works.

[01/08/2020, 11:20:06 am] Case Simon: It seems to have worked in Leicester and Luton. Let the optimists hold onto that!

[01/08/2020, 11:24:30 am] Vallance Patrick: I think we should expect to see an increase amongst the 20-35 ages as others have. Let's hope the strong messaging pulls it in

[01/08/2020, 7:12:46 pm] Johnson Boris: Folks my private focus groups telling me our messaging now so mangled as to be totally incomprehensible

We need big reset and simple themes pumped over the airwaves especially on social distancing and how many people you can have in your house etc

[01/08/2020, 7:26:12 pm] Cain Lee: We are already working on this. The hands, face, space a good starting place. The issue has been the continual shifting policy, which is understandable but leads to confusion. We need to drill the basics hard as these do not change and have the big impact

[03/08/2020, 3:07:23 pm] Johnson Boris: Btw I hope colleagues will feel I have justified my general reputation for mastery of detail by being RIGHT this morning about the rules

It's two households inside and 6 outside and always has been

[03/08/2020, 3:15:21 pm] Hancock Matt: Bravo. I think we collectively demonstrated that the position is not clear enough...

[07/08/2020, 10:43:18 am] Johnson Boris: I know that I am sometimes accused of over optimism/boosterism etc but I truly think wednesdays meeting on rapid salivary testing could be a turning point. The prize is immense.

If we can offer the British public a simple and rapid turnaround test to show whether or not - to a high degree of probability - they have the disease then we have the glimmerings of a route out of the

nightmare.

We have the makings of a freedom pass - a green light that flashes figuratively over your head and tells your family and your co workers that you are v unlikely to give them the disease.

At a stroke we are thereby able to :

1 think now about reopening the most difficult and covid prone sectors of the economy. People will be able to take a test in the morning and as MAtt says go to Hamilton the musical in the evening.

2 get Whitehall and the whole British army of bludgers and skivers back into the office

3 lift the threat of a new lockdown on hospitality etc and thereby build business confidence and inward investment

4 transform our approach to international travel and quarantine

5 and ABOVE ALL we will know in far more detail who has the disease and where they are and we will be far more effective in dousing all remaining embers

If we can get this project going well in the next few weeks we should be in a position to promote our methods to the rest of the world.

So what do we need to do ?

We must throw absolutely everything at it and give Dido the team she needs. I was a bit dismayed to hear that they are still casting round for someone to head up the project.

This is a national emergency and the faster we can get it going the less damage we will continue to do to the U.K. economy, the less scarring we will inflict on the generation currently being thrown out of work.

So please can we all work flat out in the next few weeks to get it done.

Let's give ourselves two months and make oct 7

COVID FREEDOM DAY

Of course the tests won't in themselves stamp out the disease. But they can do a huge amount to end the ambiguity and doubt and fear that has paralysed the country and the economy.

I would like to hear more on Monday about how project FREEDOM PASS is going

[07/08/2020, 11:20:12 am] Johnson Boris: I gather Russians are getting hopeful about their vaccine.

Anyone know whether this is likely ? Patrick ?

[07/08/2020, 11:25:07 am] Vallance Patrick: I asked about their vaccine and we have little information and have not seen the data. So we are in the dark on this and need to see some data.

[07/08/2020, 11:31:11 am] Johnson Boris: Thanks

[07/08/2020, 5:55:50 pm] Johnson Boris: PM, I am desperate to speak to you about the decision of the govt to include my constituency in the local lockdown on Bradford - even though there are barely any cases in my constituency. This is causing a massive issue and is fuelling huge race relations issues. This needs to be resolved ASAP. I would be very grateful if you could find the time to discuss with me. This is toxic locally. PD

[07/08/2020, 5:55:56 pm] Johnson Boris: From Shipley

[07/08/2020, 5:57:03 pm] Johnson Boris: Have talked to him and told him that we have to do some untidy stuff to beat the virus but MAtt he would def appreciate some attention

[09/08/2020, 5:23:29 pm] Johnson Boris: <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/herd-immunity-is-still-key-in-the-fight-against-covid-19>

[09/08/2020, 6:23:29 pm] Whitty Chris: It is a good debating article with many fair points. But It has two flaws.

for most serious infections without a vaccine, control is achieved without herd immunity. we do not yet know whether immunity to covid is long lasting enough to achieve population immunity at any point (we hope a vaccine might). We are a long way from that level of natural immunity now for sure, certainly out of london.

More importantly in the short term it does not address the fundamental problem of how we stop younger people eventually infecting older/sicker ones, directly or indirectly. If we could achieve a society where only the invulnerable got infected we would be in a completely different position. But that's a lot easier to say/write than do.

[09/08/2020, 7:05:54 pm] Johnson Boris: Thanks Chris ! I have a feeling you have made these points before and I apologise

But is there any merit in this idea of offering over 65s a CHOICE

le if you are over a certain age and have certain vulnerabilities then you can choose to live one of two lives

You can either shelter or at least avoid all potentially infectious environments and socialise on a strictly limited basis

Or else you can take what we hope - especially with mass salivary testing - will be an ever diminishing risk.

If you are over 65 your risk of dying from covid is probably as big as your risk of falling down stairs

And we don't stop older people from using stairs.

What do you think ?

[09/08/2020, 7:22:49 pm] Whitty Chris: Agree this is entirely reasonable at an individual level. Probably one of the problems with shielding Mark 1 was that some (maybe many) people thought they were shielding to protect the NHS and others when, other than at the peak of the first wave, they were mainly doing it to protect themselves. So outside a situation where the NHS risks being overwhelmed it has to be a personal choice. People can rationally make an informed choice they would rather take a small increased risk of dying and hug their grandchildren / go clubbing. Personally I would think twice before shielding unless it threatened the NHS.

At a population level the problem is that once R goes above 1 the deaths will start to rise exponentially unless we can entirely isolate the at risk population. Most of those who die in that situation will not have chosen to take the risk.

So I agree that where we can offer choice we should. That is like saying to someone that an unpleasant operation or chemo is optional; they may choose to live a potentially shorter but happier life without.

It does not however deal with the inexorable mathematics of exponentially increasing cases.

Hope this makes sense.

[09/08/2020, 9:06:34 pm] Johnson Boris: Yes I agree with all this but wonder why we should not be able to do better at shielding those vulnerable groups even in the context of a rising R

[09/08/2020, 9:14:41 pm] Vallance Patrick: It is a theoretically attractive idea but in reality we haven't found shielding easy or very effective first time round and I don't think anyone else has either. It is a particular problem with multigenerational households and will be even more difficult amongst some parts of society. So the challenge is how you could make all this work in practice if the disease is spreading widely amongst the younger population. And how you could be sure you could make it work.

the most cautious globally.

So while I fully expect cases to rise here as schools go back, these may explain why we have seen only a gradual rise since we unlocked.

It also points towards what we must do (which is largely as we are planning)

1. Do local lockdowns whenever needed, with proper enforcement
2. More testing, and ensure positive cases isolate - pay to isolate trial starts on Tuesday.
3. Continued caution: hands, face, space etc.

[30/08/2020, 4:45:07 pm] Johnson Boris: <attached: 00000492-PHOTO-2020-08-30-16-45-07.jpg>

[30/08/2020, 4:45:32 pm] Johnson Boris: This maybe explains what is happening in France.

[30/08/2020, 4:48:03 pm] Johnson Boris: And shows why we need a new method of control if we are to have any hope of getting things going

[30/08/2020, 4:48:11 pm] Vallance Patrick: Yes I have just come off a call with one of their science advisers. We identified 3 things - (i) their lockdown ended a long time ago and so they have had more time to have spread (ii) they have not had effective local lockdown and have no mechanism or criteria for implementing local lockdown (iii) they have far more people back in the office and workplace. They think more than 25% of transmission is occurring in the workplace

[30/08/2020, 4:49:12 pm] Johnson Boris: This is where the debate is going.

[30/08/2020, 4:57:52 pm] Johnson Boris: Their death tally is still low

Do the french expect this now to climb as in America ? Or are they keeping an open mind ?

[30/08/2020, 4:59:05 pm] Case Simon: If these stats are correct (and there are various estimates around, but all show UK less back in the office than Eur comparators), they suggest an awful lot less adult-to-adult contact going on in the UK than elsewhere. This is transport not being used and office contact not happening. Whilst the UK's foot-dragging is bad for the supporting city-centre economy, it could well be the explanation for the current difference in infection rates between the UK and elsewhere.

[30/08/2020, 4:59:17 pm] Vallance Patrick: They think that they will start to see hospital cases and deaths rising. Most of their spread has been in the young but they think it is now moving to older. They think holiday contacts have also increased spread and they have quite diffuse increase in numbers (ie not very localised)

[30/08/2020, 4:59:47 pm] Vallance Patrick: Our contact data surveys suggest fewer contacts in the U.K.

[30/08/2020, 5:01:12 pm] Johnson Boris: We need as much detail as poss on this for Tuesday. We have some tricky decisions to make.

[31/08/2020, 12:05:40 pm] Johnson Boris: Seems to be quite a big jump in infection rate today

1715

When did we last have that kind of rate ?

[31/08/2020, 12:11:30 pm] Hancock Matt: We haven't seen these sorts of rates since the end of May.

We need a thought-through, simple plan to bring clarity to social distancing rules, so we can protect the economy and education.

Then we need to enforce the hell out of it.

[31/08/2020, 12:12:52 pm] Vallance Patrick: If this is sustained it looks like a doubling every 7-10 days

[31/08/2020, 1:10:57 pm] Johnson Boris: Is there any sign that it is localised or is it national ?

How many days since France has that kind of number ?

[31/08/2020, 1:11:14 pm] Johnson Boris: Had

[31/08/2020, 1:13:13 pm] Case Simon: French were at around 1600 on 6 Aug

[31/08/2020, 1:15:28 pm] Johnson Boris: Right. Thanks. V helpful. We should get that out so people understand

[31/08/2020, 1:34:57 pm] Johnson Boris: We have seen the wave coming for miles so we should be ready. I agree w MAtt on strategy

identical to previous lockdown. Sage paper being finalised, Patrick can add.

[17/09/2020, 4:52:22 pm] Vallance Patrick: Circuit breaker would be for 2 weeks and everyone would be asked to cut contacts and stay at home etc to cause a sudden significant break in transmission. We can get the paper round tomorrow on that. As Chris said you could think about doing this regionally

[17/09/2020, 5:25:08 pm] Hancock Matt: To avoid national lockdown we need to act fast in parts of the country where it's going in the wrong direction.

Case rates in SW & East are still v low. Low & appear stable in London & SE

[17/09/2020, 5:26:58 pm] Vallance Patrick: Yes lesson is go fast, go a bit harder than you think you need, go a bit wider in geography

[19/09/2020, 9:49:55 am] Johnson Boris: Ireland going into second lockdown for three weeks

[23/09/2020, 8:16:43 am] DomC: Patrick can someone get the data to make the point re flu — countries with high flu deaths last year had lower covid and vice versa — to Bens team. We need to get all such data out to educate media

[23/09/2020, 8:22:09 am] Johnson Boris: Beware fresh hostage to fortune !

[23/09/2020, 8:23:26 am] Vallance Patrick: I would be careful about offering that as an explanation. We can get the data but I just think it is not a very solid case and would be very wary about offering that - at least not now

[23/09/2020, 8:30:52 am] DomC: Gotcha let's have data and examine

[24/09/2020, 2:00:46 pm] Hancock Matt: We have just held a very alarming JBC Gold.

Sharp rises in the North East & Merseyside. Also to a lesser extent in Manchester, Lancashire and W Yorks.

We need to get tiering sorted and tougher local action in place pronto

[26/09/2020, 7:14:34 pm] DomC: Is it true that the app cannot accept data from NHS tests? If so, why and when will it change?

[26/09/2020, 8:17:19 pm] Hancock Matt: Yes. Unbelievable. It's been changed today for positive tests

[27/09/2020, 10:21:32 am] DomC: When for negative? This is absurd and makes government look like utter clowns

[27/09/2020, 10:37:47 am] Hancock Matt: There is already a manual work-around. They are working on automating it.

We have just hit 10m downloads - over 20% of the population - but are currently being blocked from talking about it.

Also 4.5 stars on the app store.

460,000 QR posters downloaded - ahead of target

We need to get out and sell this

[28/09/2020, 10:07:46 am] DomC: Guys back in May i asked about vitamin D -- im being sent lots of stuff from non-dummies, hedge funds etc -- saying where is your plan to distribute vitD etc... *What IS our plan on this?* I fear that again we are being slow and overly-bureaucratic and behind other countries...

[28/09/2020, 1:59:25 pm] DomC: Pls can someone answer this

[28/09/2020, 2:12:01 pm] Whitty Chris: Have asked PHE for update. They own the national policy. The evidence has not really moved on either way. There is also an army tribal that was planned and I will find out about.

[28/09/2020, 2:12:12 pm] Vallance Patrick: Was looked at in May - and PHE led to produce public health advice and specific uses (eg in care homes). Chris can say more on where that is.

[28/09/2020, 2:12:22 pm] Vallance Patrick: Sorry overlapped responses

[28/09/2020, 9:45:55 pm] DomC: 1/ Do we have serious standards and advice out for office air conditioning?

2/ Like on Vit D im being badgered by smart hedge fund types/ scientists to look at 'UV wands' and similar -- do we have an assessment of how effective UV devices are in killing virus??

[28/09/2020, 10:11:38 pm] Hancock Matt: On the non-pharmaceutical improvements like air conditioning

there's a BEIS team who look at all these, funded by UKRI. Some are badges as miracle cures but don't work. Others obviously are effective

[28/09/2020, 10:24:43 pm] Johnson Boris:

<https://twitter.com/whitehouse/status/1310666492363464705?s=21>

[28/09/2020, 10:25:00 pm] Johnson Boris: Trump v much on right track here

[28/09/2020, 10:26:23 pm] Johnson Boris: This is the way

[28/09/2020, 10:26:34 pm] Johnson Boris: Can we get these abbot tests ?

[28/09/2020, 10:28:13 pm] Hancock Matt: The lateral flow validation is going well - we are keeping schtum on it until we are ready to go with full order books etc

[28/09/2020, 10:28:35 pm] Johnson Boris: Keep mum

[29/09/2020, 6:50:17 am] Johnson Boris: We need to talk re moonshot

Trump clearly on it and we can't be beaten to punch

He is prioritising vulnerable groups it seems

we should consider the use case

Who are we targeting and how does it work ?

Abbot test a nasal swab but still seems pretty simple

[29/09/2020, 6:55:42 am] Vallance Patrick: The Enviromental and Transmission subgroup has given advice on both and works with BEIS team. Also advised that hand air blowing driers are not good and should not be used.

[29/09/2020, 6:59:25 am] Case Simon: This Abbott test seems v promising. Not a home use test - they say needs to be done by someone with some sort of clinical training (that's how the White House says it is going to be used anyway - in care homes, universities and schools). Is an antigen test and they say specificity 98.5%, sensitivity 97.1% and 15minutes to results.

[29/09/2020, 7:00:27 am] Case Simon: 150m to be made (in two factories) and distributed in US through rest of this year.

[29/09/2020, 7:02:42 am] Vallance Patrick: We should get an update from the team on performance, supply chain and uses

[29/09/2020, 7:07:15 am] Hancock Matt: The tests in validation here look at least as good as this.

We are doing the work now on use cases.

[29/09/2020, 7:09:07 am] Case Simon: As Dom and I have been discussing with Dido and co, the obstacles lie in manufacture and distribution. The validation etc seems to be motoring along, but not clear what the plan is for mass production here in the UK.

[29/09/2020, 7:10:45 am] DomC: There are emerging plans on manufacturing etc and action started. But still not right. We have mtng with Dido fri am. I'm with her team today. Pm I will update u later

[29/09/2020, 7:12:35 am] DomC: We as in there is now a single mtng with Dido team and any ministers, fri am. I've told her to cancel all others as her team is wasting too much time preparing PowerPoint slides for mtngs. So there's one formal catchup with pm/ministers on a fri am from this fri

[29/09/2020, 7:25:32 am] Johnson Boris: Irrelevant & Sensitive

[29/09/2020, 7:25:39 am] Johnson Boris: We need to get out there

[29/09/2020, 7:46:19 am] Hancock Matt: The guy from Newcastle called for the measures. We worked with his council all weekend to agree them. Then he's come out against them. Unreal.

Our MPs up there say this sort of thing happens all the time.

[29/09/2020, 9:00:26 am] DomC: Lee ensure his lies are called out on local TV

[29/09/2020, 9:33:07 pm] Johnson Boris: Would it be possible for the dashboard to have the average age of currently hospitalised covid patients ?

[29/09/2020, 9:38:43 pm] Case Simon: Will find out what we can do

[29/09/2020, 9:42:09 pm] Case Simon: Not doable for tomorrow morning, but is doable, so we'll add as soon as possible

[29/09/2020, 9:42:32 pm] Johnson Boris: Thanks a lot

[02/10/2020, 5:18:27 pm] Johnson Boris: Why have we added turkey ? Looks absurd
[02/10/2020, 5:36:14 pm] Hancock Matt: Grant asked JBC to do a deep dive into their data and they discovered their numbers are highly unreliable. Likewise Poland is testing very small numbers & their positivity is higher than ours and rising
[02/10/2020, 10:34:04 pm] DomC: <attached: 00000597-PHOTO-2020-10-02-22-34-04.jpg>
[02/10/2020, 10:36:55 pm] Johnson Boris: I would have thought [I&S] was more of a splash
[03/10/2020, 8:56:53 am] Hancock Matt: Quite. We tried to hose that down yesterday - it's based off scientific sources
[03/10/2020, 4:24:32 pm] Johnson Boris: PM,

Just been told about a problem on testing data. 16k cases in last 7-8 days haven't been counted properly and are not yet in the public numbers - this is backloaded so most recent days are higher (e.g. on 1 October, 4,700 cases weren't counted in public figure). This suggests the growth have not flattened as we thought.

These people haven't been contact traced but have got their positive result.

They are putting out a statement at 4pm to explain what has happened - No 10 comms is reviewing. Case numbers today will be very high to account for some of the backlog and tomorrow will be too.

Three immediate questions I've asked for an urgent response on:

1. What does this mean on our understanding of the epidemiology, growth rates and location?
2. How much impact is this failure on contact tracing going to have?
3. How to stop happening again

Obviously will be v difficult comms for Dido & co.

Sorry to be the bearer of depressing news on a Saturday. Let me know if any other questions and I can follow up w Dido.

Imran

[03/10/2020, 4:24:39 pm] Johnson Boris: Uh oh.
[03/10/2020, 4:25:55 pm] Johnson Boris: Can we have a call later
[03/10/2020, 5:10:35 pm] Hancock Matt: Nightmare.

Dido & JBC going through now working out how it happened and what the actual epi looks like
[03/10/2020, 5:24:28 pm] Johnson Boris: We need to work out what if any response required. I was puzzled by the discrepancy between us and France in deaths per case.

And I was starting to think the r must be back at one. That obviously not true
[03/10/2020, 5:26:03 pm] Vallance Patrick: The revised testing data seem much more in line with recent estimates of R and expected growth rates unfortunately.
[03/10/2020, 5:30:20 pm] Whitty Chris: In terms of response it depends on how geographically dispersed these additional cases are. If they are evenly spread over areas we know are rising it probably makes relatively little difference, although depressing. If they are concentrated in particular areas, especially new areas where we currently do not have additional interventions that may require action.
[03/10/2020, 5:31:30 pm] Johnson Boris: Agree on response

On the whole I think it simply bears out our argument. We will need to hang tight and insist on people complying etc and hope we start seeing a downturn or slowdown next week
[03/10/2020, 5:35:48 pm] Hancock Matt: JBC will have a full analysis later this eve but I'm told initial analysis is that the extra cases are evenly spread
[08/10/2020, 8:38:09 am] Johnson Boris: Whatever we do we need to get on the mP WhatsApp groups and get the whips to push the logic of our arguments

They are in full covid denial mode

[08/10/2020, 8:47:48 am] Hancock Matt: We need to be making the argument in every forum:

- there is a problem
- we want to avoid full lockdown
- our call to action

We need all the materials of a campaign - others are campaigning against us

[16/10/2020, 1:54:57 pm] Johnson Boris: Can someone explain why french deaths are lower than ours when their case numbers are so much higher ?

[16/10/2020, 1:58:13 pm] Case Simon: Simple answer, I think, is that we can't yet explain it. We have people (incl in Paris and Madrid) trying to answer this question

[16/10/2020, 2:01:58 pm] Vallance Patrick: I think that's right. I have been digging into this for months. I understand why their death rate in hospital is lower (they admit far more people to hospital than we do, so proportionately deaths are lower). But it is unclear why overall their deaths look lower. It is difficult to be sure we are comparing like for like either with case number definitions or cause of death ascertainment (although ONS thought this was ok in the summer). There is some evidence that smaller health care system per head of population did worse overall

[16/10/2020, 6:16:50 pm] Johnson Boris: How tiering worked in the old days

In 1606 the privy council decreed that theatres should be closed if deaths from plague exceeded 30 per week

[16/10/2020, 7:04:13 pm] Hancock Matt: Not sure about these fixed thresholds

[16/10/2020, 7:07:46 pm] Whitty Chris: Plague orders had a lot of similarities including isolation, contact tracing, quarantine for new arrivals, a ban on people meeting in groups. Penalties for breaking isolation a bit stiffer however...

[17/10/2020, 10:26:19 pm] DomC: What's this? <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/17/police-get-access-to-people-told-of-self-isolate-by-nhs-test-and-trace>

[17/10/2020, 10:26:52 pm] DomC: I was told Fri all anonymised and this agreed by all

[17/10/2020, 10:38:41 pm] Whitty Chris: None of the my office or dcmos were asked or expressed a view, and I was not aware and also have not expressed a view. So that bit is incorrect and we have gone back. I don't know the details about any of the rest as have not been involved.

[24/10/2020, 5:01:32 pm] Hancock Matt: <attached: 00000620-PHOTO-2020-10-24-17-01-32.jpg> **INQ000102295**

[24/10/2020, 5:03:58 pm] Case Simon: Ugly

[24/10/2020, 5:13:01 pm] Vallance Patrick: Yes none of this is looking good and there are a lot of hospitalisation and deaths baked into the numbers already unfortunately. We don't have much time to correct.

[24/10/2020, 10:32:55 pm] Hancock Matt: <attached: 00000623-PHOTO-2020-10-24-22-32-55.jpg> **INQ000048393**

[25/10/2020, 2:11:29 am] Case Simon: We are doing this work, Matt. We have to understand whether asking people to isolate for 7 days (and test-to-release) improves compliance over our current 14 days. At the moment, compliance is very low and we need to look at why. We were told people couldn't afford to isolate - so money has been put up for it but take-up seems to have been very low. We have to look at whether reducing the isolation period (and testing to release) makes it easier for people to comply with isolation.

[25/10/2020, 2:21:07 am] Case Simon: I personally don't believe it is an issue that it is known we are doing this work. I'd rather people were focused on this rather than the Jenkin et al hatchet job on Dido and team. Furthermore, someone has briefed/leaked the Covid-O decision from last week that we are looking at quarantine exemptions for execs/high net worth individuals. We look completely crackers for looking at how to get rich people across our borders but not looking at how we make it easier for ordinary people in this country to follow isolation rules!

[25/10/2020, 7:26:36 am] DomC: Agree

[25/10/2020, 7:46:01 am] Hancock Matt: Couldn't agree more about all the leaks. But we have to be careful about this stuff. If we make a change it should be framed as based on clinical evidence - not based on failure to isolate.

[26/10/2020, 8:48:22 am] DomC: P/Chris u got views on this study on superspreaders? ill get 10ds data team to check it out too <https://www.princeton.edu/news/2020/09/30/largest-covid-19-contact-tracing->