

Addendum to fifteenth SAGE meeting on Covid-19, 13th March 2020
Held in 1 Victoria St, London, SW1H 0NN

This addendum clarifies the roles of the SAGE attendees listed in the minute. There are three categories of attendee. Scientific experts provide evidence and advice as part of the SAGE process. HMG attendees listen to this discussion, to help inform policy work, and are able to provide the scientific experts with context on the work of government where appropriate. The secretariat attends in an organisational capacity. The list of attendees is split into these groups below.

Attendees:

Scientific experts: *Patrick Vallance (GCSA), Chris Whitty (CMO), Steve Powis (NHS), Charlotte Watts (CSA DfID), Angela McLean (CSA MoD), John Aston (CSA HO), Sharon Peacock (PHE), Graham Medley (LSHTM), Neil Ferguson (Imperial), John Edmunds (LSHTM), Julia Gog (Cambridge), Brooke Rogers (King's), James Rubin (King's), Jeremy Farrar (Wellcome), David Halpern (CO), Osama Rahman (CSA DfE), Ian Diamond (ONS), Tom Rodden (CSA DCMS), Maria Zambon (PHE), Andrew Rambaut (Edinburgh), Jonathan Van Tam (Deputy CMO), Phil Blythe (CSA DfT), Wendy Barclay (Imperial).*

Observers and Government officials: *Ben Warner (No. 10).*

Secretariat: [redacted]

Names of junior officials and the secretariat are redacted.

Participants who were Observers and Government Officials were not consistently recorded therefore this may not be a complete list.

Fifteenth SAGE meeting on Wuhan Coronavirus (Covid-19), 13th March 2020
Held in 1 Victoria Street

Summary

1. Owing to a 5-7 day lag in data provision for modelling, SAGE now believes there are more cases in the UK than SAGE previously expected at this point, and we may therefore be further ahead on the epidemic curve, but the UK remains on broadly the same epidemic trajectory and time to peak.
2. The science suggests that household isolation and social distancing of the elderly and vulnerable should be implemented soon, provided they can be done well and equitably. Individuals who may want to distance themselves should be advised how to do so.
3. SAGE is considering further social distancing interventions – that may best be applied intermittently, nationally or regionally, and potentially more than once – to reduce demand below NHS capacity to respond. The modelling sub-group is discussing potential interventions on Monday 16th, for review by SAGE on Tuesday 17th.
4. The behavioural science suggests openly explaining to the public where the greatest risks lie and what individuals can do to reduce their own risk and risk to others, even if this is ahead of measures announced by the Government – but SAGE recognises that taking individual measures may be more feasible for some than others. Greater transparency could enable personal agency, send useful signals about risk and build trust.
5. Measuring the impact of all interventions depends on sufficient, relevant data delivered on time: it is a priority to ensure accurate and complete data are available with minimal delay.

Situation update

6. SAGE is keen to make the modelling and other inputs underpinning its advice available to the public and fellow scientists.
7. There are probably more cases in the UK than SAGE previously expected at this point, and we may be further ahead on the epidemic curve, but the UK remains on broadly the same epidemic trajectory. The change in numbers is due to the 5-7 day lag phase in data availability for modelling.
8. Office for National Statistics (ONS) is gathering data on a) availability and prices of key ("anxiety") goods b) labour market trends c) consumer spending across key sectors d) and business behaviour (e.g. home working).
9. ONS is also developing a new opinion survey, for which questions are being finalised over the weekend.
10. SAGE will review a dashboard containing the findings from these datasets at each meeting.

ACTION: SAGE secretariat to work with **HMG Communications** colleagues to agree what SPI-M and SPI-B information will be made public and a process to share this, ensuring this information is easily accessible and understandable. This needs to be done as soon as possible

ACTION: SPI-B and SPI-M to provide comments on what should be included in the ONS opinion survey via **SAGE secretariat** by 1200 on Sunday 15 March 2020

Understanding Covid-19

11. There is some evidence from Japan (not peer reviewed) that certain individuals spread the virus to multiple others, while other individuals are responsible for minimal spread.
12. It is clear that household quarantining would lead to increased risk of others within the household becoming infected, as described in the modelling.