

Message

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Sent: 14/03/2020 14:10:34
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Subject: Readout: PM meeting [OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE]

Dear all,

The PM met the Health Secretary, CDL, CMO/CSA and senior officials this morning on coronavirus.

CMO/CSA provided an update on SAGE's work and the medical situation, and the implication that the right time to implement measures in our plan might be sooner than previously envisaged given the latest analysis. The plan allowed for this possibility, and the PM was clear that any measures adopted in the coming days was fully in line with our message that we would take the right measures at the right time, and that we must nest our response within the framework of last Thursday. The objective remained protecting the most vulnerable and protecting the NHS in supporting the public.

The meeting concluded as follows:

1. We require a cross-Government signed-off package on shielding the vulnerable and elderly by Wednesday lunchtime, for review by the PM the following morning. This needed to be of sufficient depth (with a clear explanation of what different responses are required for different vulnerable groups) to be ready for implementation; decisions as to when to implement will be based on advice from the CMO/CSA. The advice should include how to handle the DAs. (Cab Office to lead)
2. By close today, we need a list of who the vulnerable groups consist of, and how many people sit within each group (DHSC to provide, via Cab Office)
3. For discussion at a PM meeting tomorrow, we need advice that covers the following package of measures, for introduction when judged appropriate with all key terms fully defined (Cab Office to coordinate):
 - a. What we do on mass gatherings to support public resilience
 - b. How we could implement further social distancing based on the epidemiology, with options ranging up to full lockdown. This will require clear detail on what social distancing means in practice
 - c. A proposed approach and options on schools (and school meals)
 - d. The near-finalised approach on household isolation ready for announcement by Monday (though again, with a decision on when to implement based on further advice from CMO/CSA)
 - e. A regional overlay to all of the above, specifically a plan for taking strong early action in London