

Message

From: Name Redacted

Sent: 27/01/2020 15:21:24

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Subject: Coronavirus meeting readout

All,

Please see the below for a readout from this morning's meeting with SofS on Coronavirus. Please note the actions and treat sensitively. SofS has asked for more frequent meetings on these, diary schedulers will be shared asap.

Coronavirus meeting: 27/01/2020

Attendees: SofS, CMO, JVT, Perm Sec, Emma Dean, Jamie Njoku-Goodwin, Clara Swinson, Emma Reed, Paul Cosford, Natasha Price, Name Redacted, Kate Thomas, Yvonne Doyle, Name Redacted

- SofS opened the meeting by outlining his concern upon hearing the update from the Chinese government that the virus is transmissible when patients are asymptomatic and set out the need to plan for the reasonable worst based scenario.
- CMO commented that previously our best understanding was that the virus was unlikely to transmit whilst patients were asymptomatic (but this was/is unable to be definitive). There is still a lack of clarity over what the Chinese official position is. CMO would expect that very symptomatic persons would be more likely to transmit the virus. CMO commented that if transmission was occurring rapidly in the UK, it would be highly likely that this would have come from highly symptomatic persons. CMO was confident but could not guarantee that asymptomatic persons would be less contagious than heavily symptomatic persons.
- CMO commented that current intel suggests that the coronavirus is a moderately severe upper respiratory tract infection. The fact that mortality rates appear to be levelling out imply that our certainty on the gravity of the situation is improving, but this is caveated by our reliance on information from China.