

19. Asymptomatic transmission cannot be ruled out and transmission from mildly symptomatic individuals is likely.
20. Almost nothing is known about WN-CoV in children – though it is significant that there have been no reports of illness among children.
21. Under-20s appear to be least susceptible. WN-CoV appears to mirror a flu mortality curve, with most deaths among the over-60s.

ACTION: Neil Ferguson to share a confidential report on at risk groups with the SAGE secretariat.

Swabbing and testing

22. SAGE discussed different countries' approach to swab testing asymptomatic individuals leaving China.
23. Some individuals were swabbed twice – with some testing positive for WN-CoV on second swabbing.
24. More information is needed about swabbing and subsequent testing to inform modelling of the outbreak.
25. The UK, to date, has not swab tested returnees.
26. Although the UK is building regional diagnostic capability within weeks, overall capacity is limited. Capacity cannot be substantially increased during this winter influenza season.

ACTION: DCMO to understand what swabbing and subsequent testing of returning travellers has been undertaken globally and to review how often swabs need to be taken to be reliable. In addition, **DCMO** to consider whether the UK should swab those returning from China, including those currently in quarantine in the UK.

Global outlook

27. Human-human transmission outside China has occurred. Sustained human-to-human transmission outside China cannot be ruled out, but there is as yet no definitive evidence of a sustained outbreak/epidemic elsewhere.
28. More testing for WN-CoV globally as part of routine influenza testing would improve understanding of the scale and nature of the outbreak, but currently is logistically difficult.
29. The outbreak is likely to peak in Wuhan/Hubei in the next 3-5 weeks.
30. There will be a lag before it peaks in China (potentially a month), then further lags before it peaks elsewhere in the world.
31. The epidemic in Wuhan could last for 5 to 6 months in total.
32. This is currently a wide range for all of these figures, and SAGE would seek to refine this estimate as more data emerges.

ACTION: SPI-M to produce projections of when the epidemic will peak as well as overall duration of outbreak in 1. Wuhan, 2. China and 3. UK – if we get sustained person-to-person transmission. In addition, **SPI-M** to advise on countries that may be most affected.

ACTION: SPI-M to review, based on available data, what can be said regarding seasonality of the outbreak and risk factors, specifically age and if possible, smoking.

ACTION: UK science coordination group for WN-CoV, which includes GCSA, CMO (NIHR), PHE, DfID, FCO and research funders, to consider whether the UK can accelerate diagnostic capability to include WN-CoV alongside regular influenza testing before the onset of the winter influenza season.