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Sent: Tue 23/06/2020 5:14:04 PM (UTC)  
Subject: O/S: SAGE 23 June  
[3a. 20.06.22 SPI-B Consensus on reintroduction of measures and their impact on rate of infection.docx](#)  
[3b. 200622 SPI-M-O Statement sent to SAGE.pdf](#)

## Headlines:

- Vallance noted the heavy trailing in the press of the measures the govt has now announced it will relax; said he and Whitty had made clear to the policy makers that this package was at the riskier end of the spectrum (with the potential to increase R above 1), and that they needed to be prepared to re-impose measures if necessary. Noted also that this package reduces the space for doing other things, like bringing schools back in September. If schools are to return, policymakers may have to re-impose restrictions in other places like retail.
- As measures eased, the risk of outbreaks was high, so there was a need for very active monitoring and data collection. Contact tracing and outbreak investigation are likely to be the best source of information on where and when transmission is occurring and within which groups. Desire also to bring together the various sources of behavioural info (including polling, mobility/Google places data, Comix survey etc) in a behavioural data sit-rep, including to help with interpretation of R.
- Suggestion that PHE are starting to collect field data for weekly sit rep on local outbreaks, by place and scale – with a particular focus now on workplaces, including spot checks on retail.
- Some concern expressed about latest trends in the data – the ONS survey was showing incidence as broadly flat (though sample size remains small so numbers need careful interpretation), without further declines; and some early signs from latest Comix survey (received overnight though not yet fully assessed) that R could be increasing and could be close to one in some areas, especially the NW.
- [As per the letter Philippa circulated yesterday] NHS have looked in to the serious concerns raised by the modellers about the hospital admissions data, and claim it is causing no more than a 5% error in that data stream. Though say they are actively undertaking field work/deep dives in some trusts to confirm.
- Looking ahead to potential future re-imposition of measures:
  - SPI-B have considered the behavioural science – including that: the psychological approach to measures has changed since the start of lockdown (there was fear on the way in, some anger on the way out), that resistance to social distancing has increased in recent weeks, and the inequitable impacts of both the pandemic itself and the lockdown measures are important to consider.
  - Spi-B note using on re-introduction or relaxation of individual measures should not be looked at in isolation; necessary to consider a package of interventions as a whole and what implications one measure may have for the choices in other areas. Use ready reckoners to explore the how the impact on transmission from one intervention can be weighed against other impacts – eg closing schools and closing retail may have equivalent impacts at a particular point, so may need to choose between them. Basic conclusion that not possible to re-open everything, and will be necessary to leave some ‘space’ for schools to re-open in September.

## Detail

- SAGE commissioned by CabOff to give a view on which measures would have greatest impact and should be re-introduced first if there is such a need.
- SPI-M note that the focus going forwards should be on local control; a need to re-impose national measures would suggest a failure of local lockdown. Question also of the gap between a local response and a national one – what does a regional response look like?
- SPI-M clear that it is not possible to have everything back as it was before without re-igniting transmission; important that policy makers realise they can't re-open everything over the summer as planned, and then just open schools in September. Need to be alive to the networks across the country that will be created (including over the holidays as people travel between regions, but also once pupils return to school). Vallance reiterates that he and Whitty have made clear in Cabinet