

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

f. Policy options on flights

4. The CSA would provide formal advice today on the latest SAGE analysis; and share a proposed script for agreement with the PM on the public communication around this and making SAGE's work available more publicly (CSA to provide)
5. The PM would host a teleconference of leading manufacturers on Monday to focus effort on ventilators. CDL will help drive this work. (Stuart will liaise with Steve Oldfield; Eddie will liaise with key manufacturers)
6. The PM would communicate to Cabinet that coronavirus was the most pressing priority for the country, and that they must ensure they and their officials are dedicating sufficient resource and time to this effort (Cabinet Office to provide a draft letter by this evening). Note – the PM is also keen to press Cabinet Ministers on this at Cabinet on Tuesday, so can Cab Office please work out a plan for how he can press this message to individual Departments then as appropriate.
7. The UK must take a leading role in the international response; the PM would speak to Trump, Abe and MBS ahead of further discussions next week. We will work up a plan to demonstrate UK leadership of the agenda, through leader, finance minister and health minister tracks **NR**

The PM is also keen to have a daily (or more regular) sit-rep that includes the latest data on the virus, data that tracks where we are on the key measures to improve NHS capacity (freeing up beds, purchasing ventilators etc), and other key facts (e.g. on economic data) to inform decision making. Can we have the first version of this for tomorrow's PM meeting.

Please can we have all final products for tomorrow **submitted to PM POST by 3.30pm** as the PM has requested that he has time to read the materials ahead of the planned 5pm meeting. Can the Cabinet Office also provide an agenda for this meeting as part of this.

CCS/EDS, please can you track against these actions as appropriate.

Thanks,

Imran

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