


Participants

 Boris Johnson

 Owner of the cell phone

 System Message

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I'm afraid the data are really shocking. Here's my assessment:



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The data

The virus is rising fast in all regions of England. England's overall positivity up to 17%, all-England rate up 20% to 476 and a 27% rise in the rate in people aged over 60. There are some rare spots where it isn't rising, like Kent, where it's essentially flat. This shows that Tier 4 with schools closed and very strong messaging can appear to hold the New Variant. The virus is rising fastest in Tier 3 areas.

Of those areas in T4 the longest:

- * there is not good evidence that T4 has brought infection rates down.
- * The Christmas period has seen 20-40% drops in testing rates across the country but in many areas test positivity has increased by 50-200% in relative terms
- * This judgement is made because the only place to see a (modest) drop in case rate is Kent, where the rate has dropped by 8% to 742/100,000 in the context of a 36% drop in testing and a 44% relative increase in positivity to 22.2%
- * London has seen a further 10% rise to 902/100,000
- * Surrey saw a 20% rise to 615/100,000
- * Berkshire saw a 25% rise to 591/100,000
- * Hertfordshire saw a 25% rise to 752/100,000
- * Essex saw a 2% increase albeit to 995/100,000 but these must be considered alongside a 37% drop in testing and 65% relative increase in positivity to 21.3%

In tier 3 areas worth noting the rises in Liverpool City Region (84% to 341.7/100,000) and Dorset (82% rise to 295)

All this means that at the next Tiering review the whole country will likely go into Tier 4.



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What to do

We should therefore move England into a national lockdown. We have to throw everything at this. My proposal is as follows:

- We announce the CMOs are moving the UK into National Alert Level 5
- We move to national lockdown:
- Tier 4 restrictions plus closure of takeaway alcohol and closure of click and collect, and no consumption of alcohol at work meetings to end "work lunches" or "work dinners". 10pm curfew.
- Very strong stay at home messages in all circumstances with very limited reasonable excuses.
- Secondary school non-exam years switch to online learning, at least until half term.
- Primary schools: I think we must keep them closed entirely. Otherwise we are relaxing measures - and we will undermine the stay at home message. I think we need to delay opening for 2 weeks and see what the data say then. The alternative is to say they open or close at the local councils' discretion on public health advice from their DPH. But then I worry we lose control over opening them again.
- Key workers' children, vulnerable children, and exam years can partake in face to face education.

We should be clear that we expect this to last for some weeks.



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Missed Voice Call



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