Message

From: Vallance, Patrick (GO-Science) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=34A3DB026A094839B977362D13396897-VALLANCE, P]
Sent: 11/10/2020 14:12:44
To: Whitty, Chris [Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk]; NR @cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) [gcsa@go-science.gov.uk]
CC: NR @dhsc.gov.uk]; Simon Ridley [simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Kate Josephs [kate.josephs@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Emma Payne [emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Katie Waring [katie.waring@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Oliver Ilott [oliver.ilott@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Michael Livingston [michael.livingston@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Tom Lindsell [tom.lindsell@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) [gcsa@go-science.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: For review - draft COVID-O paper

Dear NR

Apologies for being late to respond. A couple of months ago we submitted a paper indicating that to be effective measures would need to be introduced quickly, be rather harder than initially expected and applied rather more widely than the area of immediate concern. Subsequently SAGE produced the papers on NPIs and circuit breakers. We are now in a position of fast growth and hospitals filling up in some areas. I fear that what is proposed in level 3 is insufficient to make a real impact and has the potential for many loopholes (eg the serving of food in pubs to remain open). I won't reiterate what Chris says below (which I agree with), but unless local leaders decide to go much further on level 3 the proposed baseline package is unlikely to reduce R below 1. Actively stopping the application of the 2M rule seems perverse.

I worry that in Tier 2 areas where some of the changes will be seen as a loosening this will hasten the move to Tier 3.

So, absent local leaders applying much more stringent measures I think we are heading towards continued increases in numbers with the consequences that we know will follow. Clearly ministers will need to be prepared to accept that or indeed have it as part of an overt strategy that they own if they go down this route.

Patrick

From: Whitty, Chris <Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 October 2020 13:10
To: NR @cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) <GCSA@go-science.gov.uk>; Vallance, Patrick (GO-Science) <P.Vallance1@go-science.gov.uk>

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: RE: For review - draft COVID-O paper

Dear NR

Thanks. This has the potential significant benefit of being simpler- although as most LAs will use their own version of Tier 3 in the way it is laid out that simplicity will not last. Sustainability is also essential and on that it does well.

I remain pretty dubious the measures will be sufficient in Tier 3 however, unless LAs choose to go to the top of their licence in virtually every sector, and it is very unlikely 4 weeks will be sufficient at this level of intervention; this is a long way from a fire-break. If they go for the minimum set as laid out it will almost certainly not be. The 2m+ rule, which they

are not allowed, is one of the evidence-based things we have. Not allowing it if it is wanted locally seems odd, and removes a tool to make hospitality in high transmission areas safer, and therefore viable over winter. Even the much-quoted Sweden model depends on a 2m model in hospitality (which people stick to we are told).

In Tier 2 which covers a wide range of epidemiology, it may be sufficient in some areas, but I think we should anticipate quite a few accelerating into Tier 3 in the next 2 weeks.

So my overall concern is this is necessary, but not sufficient, unless LAs push right to the top, and the public buys in strongly.

Chris

From: NR @cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 October 2020 12:29
To: Whitty, Chris <Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk>; Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) <gcsa@go-science.gov.uk>

[See recipients listed above]

Subject: For review - draft COVID-O paper

Chris, Patrick,

Please find attached a draft COVID-O paper for the meeting, along with the annexed table. An addendum will follow once talks w Merseyside have taken place.

COVID-O are meeting at 3pm. Ahead of that, we would be grateful for your views on the overall package, if possible by 1.**30pm.** Apologies, as ever, for the very short turnaround.

Many thanks

NR

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NR
C-19 Strategy Unit
E: NR @cabinetoffice.gov.uk
T: I&S
M: I&S