Names of junior officials and the secretariat are redacted.

Participants who were observers and government officials were not consistently recorded therefore this may not be a complete list.

Summary

1. Owing to a 5 to 7 day lag in data provision for modelling, SAGE now believes there are more cases in the UK than SAGE previously expected at this point, and we may therefore be further ahead on the epidemic curve, but the UK remains on broadly the same epidemic trajectory and time to peak.

2. The science suggests that household isolation and social distancing of the elderly and vulnerable should be implemented soon, provided they can be done well and equitably. Individuals who may want to distance themselves should be advised how to do so.

3. SAGE is considering further social distancing interventions – that may best be applied intermittently, nationally or regionally, and potentially more than once – to reduce demand below NHS capacity to respond. The modelling sub-group is discussing potential interventions on Monday 16 March 2020, for review by SAGE on Tuesday 17 March 2020.

4. The behavioural science suggests openly explaining to the public where the greatest risks lie and what individuals can do to reduce their own risk and risk to others, even if this is ahead of measures announced by the government – but SAGE recognises that taking individual measures may be more feasible for some than others. Greater transparency could enable personal agency, send useful signals about risk and build trust.

5. Measuring the impact of all interventions depends on sufficient, relevant data delivered on time: it is a priority to ensure accurate and complete data are available with minimal delay.

Situation update

6. SAGE is keen to make the modelling and other inputs underpinning its advice available to the public and fellow scientists.

7. There are probably more cases in the UK than SAGE previously expected at this point, and we may be further ahead on the epidemic curve, but the UK remains on broadly the same epidemic trajectory. The change in numbers is due to the 5 to 7 day lag phase in data availability for modelling.

8. Office for National Statistics (ONS) is gathering data on a) availability and prices of key ('anxiety') goods b) labour market trends c) consumer spending across key sectors d) and business behaviour (for example home working).

9. ONS is also developing a new opinion survey, for which questions are being finalised over the weekend.

10. SAGE will review a dashboard containing the findings from these datasets at each meeting.

Actions

- SAGE secretariat to work with HMG Communications colleagues to agree what SPI-M and SPI-B information will be made public and a process to share this, ensuring this information is easily accessible and understandable; this needs to be done as soon as possible

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