

COBR Novel Coronavirus (M)(20)(1)

CABINET OFFICE

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Novel Coronavirus

24 January 2020, 12:00

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ACTIONS

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND to work with BORDER FORCE, DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT and airline carriers to ensure, where possible, they receive passenger name records.
2. PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND to provide regular updates on the progress of contact tracing of recent returners from Wuhan (within the last 14 days) to the group.
3. The CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER to continue to liaise regularly with the CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICERS in the Devolved Administrations.
4. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE to coordinate the Four Nations advice for student populations, working with education departments, by close of play 24 January, sharing with Devolved Administrations for comment before it is made public.
5. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE, working with CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, to confirm what data will be released regarding 'suspected cases' and the agreed language for communicating them.
6. The DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS to share with DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE, on a timescale to be determined, daily data to feed into the overall UK picture.
7. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE to share the daily UK update on figures with the DAs, other Government departments and No.10 before it is publically communicated.

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8. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE and the DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS to work with care providers to ensure that reporting of cases is centrally coordinated and not released directly to the public by providers.

DECISIONS

1. COBR agreed to the trigger level and actions as set out in 'UK escalation triggers and response options' paper.
2. The Chief Medical Officer will be responsible for advising if and when trigger points have been met.
3. Communications on trigger points should be shared quickly with all Four Nations Chief Medical Officers.
4. COBR agreed that if the first confirmed case is in a Devolved Administration, that nation's Chief Medical Officer should do the first public communications, with advance coordination across the Four Nations.
5. COBR agreed that COBR would next meet if the risk to the UK increases substantially.
6. COBR agreed that the Devolved Administrations should agree any communications in advance that are relevant to them, and sighted in advance of all communications.

Cabinet Office
24 January 2020