

was different in China, where there was no apparent effect, compared to the US where it had been shown to reduce the time taken to recover from coronavirus. There was progress in the development of vaccines, including at the University of Oxford where they were into the first round of clinical testing on humans. There would be a study from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) published that weekend on the measured virus in the community. Although the situation in the UK was looking better, things would get more complicated again in the winter.

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER said that it looked like the number of coronavirus deaths in care homes was at least flat, and may be reducing.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- e) the impact of the virus could be seen on the public finances and the economy, including on the numbers of redundancies, firm failures and Universal Credit claims. The Government was doing a huge amount to provide support, but would not be able to save every firm and every job. Colleagues should consider non-fiscal ways to help people and drive growth, including reprioritising in their own departments. That way, the UK could return to become the dynamic, free-market economy described by the Prime Minister;
- f) progress to fire up the engines of the economy was being made. Sectoral guidance on how to return to work safely was being written. All departments should use the time before any measures were relaxed to get prepared. Clarity would be required soon on any changes to the policy on use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the workplace.
- g) the Department of Work and Pensions was doing work on the labour market response to the recovery following coronavirus. It would be important not to give too much weight to the views of Trades Unions, which only represented a fraction of the workforce;
- h) it was already the case that if working from home was not possible, and an individual showed no sign of infection, then they could attend their normal workplace. But many were being more cautious. Maintaining the current behaviours would be in effect a tightening of the social distancing measures. Employers