

- 7.3 The analysis of schools' data until Friday of last week - 42 schools were involved, mainly with single cases. The special circumstance is the challenge of transmission in staff; mainly teachers. In one large assisted learning team there was a large number of staff and a small number of pupils involved. In the main not much transmission has been documented. The challenges of complying with hygiene measures in assisted learning teams was noted.
- 7.4 Schools have been back for 2+ weeks and the tremendous strain on testing was noted. Overall there has been a very high initial presentation of children to schools.
- 7.5 It was noted that parents are concerned and getting tests, including the whole family. If a case is identified close contacts are traced and limited testing carried out particularly if symptoms have developed. JMM will update in two weeks' time.
- 7.6 **PHE**
- An increase in NHS111 contacts for 'cold and flu' was noted, which may be explained by an increase in rhinovirus detections. There may also be concerns from parents around starting schools.

8 Thematic updates

- 8.1 The issue of 'Long COVID' was raised; should NERVTAG look at this and have a view? This is people with chronic symptoms.
- 8.2 It was noted that this was likely to be controversial and suggested that a systematic review would be helpful. Is there anything known about the risk factors, with and without persistent shedding?
- 8.3 It was noted that there is a UK consortium funded to look at this. CSm is part of the group.

Action 31.7 - PH to discuss with JVT whether advice from NERVTAG regarding 'long COVID' is required by Government/SAGE

9 AOB

- 9.1 There were no AOB.
- 9.2 The meeting ended at 13:12.